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Inter-Arab Affairs

Saddam Receives Arab Committee Delegation

JN1006191489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn this evening received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr Abdellatif Filali, and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, representatives of the tripartite Arab committee set up by the Casablanca summit to deal with the Lebanese issue. The foreign ministers of the three countries briefed his excellency the president leader on the committee's future plan of action, as well as the contacts they held before their visit to Baghdad.

During the meeting, the president leader affirmed to the ministers Iraq's support and appreciation for the committee's efforts, as well as his sincere wishes that it will achieve success—as his excellency explained in the Casablanca summit's deliberations. He stressed the need for the committee to exercise all the necessary powers to deal with all aspects of the Lebanese issue. He also called on all parties involved to cooperate honestly and seriously in order to realize the noble pan-Arab goal worked out by the Arab summit.

President leader Saddam Husayn also stressed the bases and principles, which his excellency explained to his brothers the leaders of the Arab countries during their deliberations at the Casablanca summit, especially those pertaining to the Lebanese issue and the values and principles that should prevail in relations among the Arab countries.

The three foreign ministers expressed their leaders' confidence in President leader Saddam Husayn and his role in dealing with the Lebanese issue on the basis of the pan-Arab principles defined by the emergency Arab summit.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the ambassadors of the three countries in Baghdad.

Arab Economic Unity Council Cuts Budget

JN1006065689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jun 89 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—In an attempt to reevaluate its course of action and reassess its internal structure in the face of shrinking funds and toughening economic conditions, the Council for Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), Wednesday [7 June] decided to reduce its 1989 budget by $350,000 and to spend its 1990 $1.15 million budget mainly on developing the Arab Common Market (ACM), setting up joint Arab projects and creating a wider base for economic cooperation in the Arab World.

"This would consolidate the basic structure of Arab economic action," CAEU Secretary General Hasan Ibrahim told a press conference Thursday marking the end of the council's 51st round of meetings here. [passage omitted]

In other decisions arrived at during Wednesday's meeting, the council agreed to lay off 15 employees and cut the salaries of senior employees by up to 25 percent in the face of the "drastic financial situation" it faces.

The CAEU is owed $4 million in arrears from most of its 13 member states, and with its $2 million debt has been unable to pay salaries for the staff during the past four months.

Libya, which Wednesday assumed the one-year rotating post of CAEU chairman, last week paid $915,000 in dues to the cash-strapped body. Kuwait, which finances nearly a third of the budget and owes the council $1 million in arrears, was expected to resume its payments soon, Ibrahim said.

The UAE [United Arab Emirates] has already provided $100,000 of the half a million it owes the council. Egypt, which was formally welcomed back into the Arab economic fold on Wednesday, has pledged $234,000. Funding quotas for the CAEU budget were kept at the same level. [passage omitted]

The CAEU groups Jordan, Iraq, North and South Yemen, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, Kuwait and the UAE.

ACC Summit To Begin in Alexandria 15 Jun

NC1206194589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—The heads of governments of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member states comprising Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan will arrive in Cairo on Wednesday, the day after tomorrow. They will be received at Cairo Airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

The ACC ministerial council, composed of the heads of governments, will hold a meeting on Wednesday evening to prepare for the agenda of the ACC supreme council which will convene in Alexandria on Thursday under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and will be attended by his Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Palestinian Affairs

Druze Radio Interviews PFLP's George Habash

NC0906162689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1308 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Interview with Dr George Habash, secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, by Radwan al-Dib; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Dib] Dr Habash, we welcome you. We will begin by speaking about the intifadah [uprising]. Dr Habash, in light of the daily confrontations between the children of the stones and the Israeli repression forces, what is the present situation of the intifadah? What about its future, continuity, and the horizons for its development?

[Habash] In the first months of the intifadah there was a question which was frequently asked by the Palestinian and Arab masses abroad. This question was: What are the horizons of the intifadah? And is it possible that the intifadah will continue?

Now, after 18 months have passed, the intifadah is continuing and escalating. This means that our masses' suffering as a result of the occupation, such as the seizure of their lands and the stealing of their water, as well as the injustice which is meted out to them—I mean repression and imprisonment—all this makes us say with great confidence that the intifadah will stop only after it achieves its goal. This goal, as announced on several occasions in the communiques of the Unified National Leadership, is freedom and independence—in other words, the expulsion of the Zionist occupation from the West Bank and the Gaza Srtip and the establishment of a Palestinian state there.

Naturally, at this stage we cannot burden the intifadah with more than it can bear. I mean we cannot burden the intifadah with the responsibility for the liberation of all the Palestinian national soil. However, the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will mark the beginning of the breakdown of the Zionist plan. We can rely on this breakdown to continue the struggle to achieve our full objective of liberating all the Palestinian national soil.

Hence, the horizons of the intifadah are vast. Above all, the intifadah represents a new stage in the Palestinian national struggle and the Arab liberation struggle. Naturally, the problem which we must admit frankly is that the intifadah, despite having gone on for 18 months, has not caused the necessary interactions abroad, whether in regard to the Palestinians abroad, the Arab masses abroad, or the Arab national liberation movement abroad. Consequently, the intifadah of our masses inside [the occupied territories] must be accompanied by a real democratic reform process within the PLO abroad. This democratic reform process must be geared toward mobilizing all the Palestinian masses in the diaspora in such a way that the intifadah goal of establishing a Palestinian state becomes the goal of all the Palestinian masses.

The establishment of a Palestinian state should not remain the goal of the Palestinian masses in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip alone. The goal of establishing the Palestinian state—that is, the goal of freedom and independence—should become the goal of our Palestinian masses wherever they are. It should become the goal of our Palestinian masses to return to the 1948 area [Israel's original borders] and in the diaspora.

In order for the PLO to mobilize all Palestinians wherever they are and to gear their resources and capabilities to this goal, there is a need for democratic reforms by which the PLO will become a broad national front that will effect the mobilization process.

This is on the Palestinian level. On the other hand, in order for the intifadah to become a new chapter or the beginning of a new phase for the Arab national movement, the Arab masses and all the Arab national liberation movements in the Arab homeland, especially in the countries bordering Palestine, must carry out their duty toward the intifadah. They should act as an Arab, national, and popular shield for the intifadah to enable it to achieve its goals.

Now we are confident that the intifadah will continue. It is very difficult to imagine the intifadah stopping before it has expelled the occupation. In addition to its continuity, we also expect the intifadah to escalate. We expect it to become more effective. Perhaps this year we will be able to achieve the slogan propounded by the intifadah; namely, the slogan of disobedience [al-'isyan]. If we cannot achieve complete national disobedience, perhaps we will be able to begin with intermittent national disobedience. For example, a disobedience campaign lasting for 1 week would be followed by a disobedience campaign lasting for 10 days. This in turn would be followed by a disobedience campaign lasting 1 month.

We expect this to happen for the intifadah within. We also expect that our masses within will be aware of the need to inflict human losses on the enemy. What was the explanation for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon after they had invaded that country and reached Beirut and the mountain area? The reason was the human losses which the Israeli forces suffered. We also expect that our masses inside will remember this point. We are optimistic about the continuation of the intifadah. We are optimistic about the escalation of the intifadah. The weak point lies in the PLO abroad and its inability, despite the passage of 18 months, to mobilize all the Palestinian masses and gear their struggle toward supporting the intifadah. Our problem also lies in Arab reality, whether the official Arab reality, or—I regret to say—the popular Arab reality.

[Al-Dib] In light of the escalation of the intifadah and Israeli intransigence, what is the slogan of this stage and what are your minimum demands?

[Habash] Our demands are freedom and independence. It is quite impossible for us to make concessions about these demands. This means, in other words, the resolutions adopted by the 19th Palestine National Council—the establishment of an independent and completely sovereign Palestinian state. This is what we are seeking, and this is the minimum demand of our Palestinian masses inside [the occupied territories] and the PLO.

[Al-Dib] Shamir's government has called for elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. What is the position of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] on this?

[Habash] Absolutely and definitely the Shamir plan. [sentence as heard]. It is useful to note that Shamir followed up on this plan with a number of statements which he wanted to emphasize as much as he emphasized the plan. When Shamir launched his plan, he sought to stress that there would be no negotiations with the PLO, that he would not accept in any form the establishment of a Palestinian state, and that there would be no withdrawal from 1 inch—that is, 1 square inch—of territory. These are statements made by Shamir himself. What does Shamir want to achieve by proposing this plan? The answer is very clear. He wants to end the intifadah. This is because Shamir knows that elections cannot take place without calm in the West Bank. This means that he wants to deprive us of this weapon—the weapon of the intifadah. When we lose this weapon, we will fall under the mercy of Shamir and his plan.

Regarding the election issue, the entire world knows that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The entire world, not only all the Arabs, knows this. Even the outside world, even, recently, Western Europe, has affirmed and has begun to act on the basis that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Therefore, what is the purpose of the elections? If the Zionist entity or Israel really wants to solve the issue, there is one way open to it. This is the international conference, where serious negotiations can take place. Otherwise, we have a right to raise 1,000 questions about the elections and Shamir's purpose in holding them.

All of us know that, when the election process begins, we will find ourselves facing a Hamas Movement list, a PLO list, and other lists. We all know what elections could produce with regard to a possible disintegration of Palestinian unity. For this reason we think that Shamir's plan is the most serious thing we are facing at this time, and it must be rejected completely. We must not deal with it in any form. This is our position on Shamir's plan.

[Al-Dib] It is being repeated that Shamir's government will make no concessions and that it will force the Palestinians out into Jordan and Lebanon. There are also some who link the events in Jordan with the establishment of a Palestinian state. Is there any possibility that such thing might happen?

[Habash] First, with regard to the point that Shamir's government will make no concessions, this is not just a rumor. It has been said in explicit statements by Shamir, Arens, and a large number of Zionist leaders represented in the Israeli Government. Therefore, it is not just a rumor that Shamir or Shamir's government will not make any concessions. Shamir said himself that he would not make any concessions. As I told you, he declared that the election plan does not imply the acceptance of withdrawal from 1 square inch of Palestinian territory.

With regard to the transfer [preceding word in English] issue—that is, the eviction issue—there is no doubt that there are extremist Israeli Zionist forces who have begun to feel that the only way to deal with what is facing the Zionist entity at this time—and I mean the intifadah and its tremendous impact—is by implementing the transfer, or eviction. One of the lists of candidates in the elections in Israel ran under this slogan—the slogan of transfer. I have been watching some of the statistics on Israeli public opinion. I have noticed an increase in the number of Jewish settlers and Zionists in Israel who have begun to talk about this issue. However, on the other hand, we know that the implementation of such a plan would not be easy, because public opinion in the entire world, including the United States itself, would not accept it.

I remember very well a statement made by Peres. Peres was asked about the issue of eviction, or transfer. His answer was that for the Israelis the transfer would mean the transfer of Israel from the international community; that is, Israel's departure from the will of the international community. Consequently, the international community would respond to this policy by evicting Israel from the international community. I want to say that it would not be an easy thing for the Zionist entity to carry out the transfer plan. We must also take into consideration the fact that some Zionist circles want to wave this threat before us continuously until our masses, both in the 1948 area and in the 1967 area—that is, the West Bank and the Gaza strip—begin to feel that they are facing a very great danger. Therefore, I do not attach the same importance to this danger as some of the Israeli newspapers do.

I want to clarify one point, which is the question of the position of the U.S. Administration. When it rejects the policy of eviction, why does it do that? Is it because it loves us or because of humanitarian reasons? My answer is no. The U.S. Administration is aware that if this policy were pursued, an explosive situation would exist throughout the Middle East, particularly the Arab homeland and the Arab entities linked to U.S. policy. This

explosive situation would threaten all its interests in the region. It would not be an easy matter for Israel to embark on such a policy. Our masses must also realize that the purpose of such a threat is to cause alarm and fear among them.

[Al-Dib] Has the PLO worked out a response to Shamir's measures? How will the PLO respond? Is there any possibility of resorting to military action in the event that Israeli oppressive measures continue?

[Habash] The first and foremost response is the political line to which the PLO should adhere. If you ask me what gurantees there are for the continuation and victory of the uprising, I will tell you that, first, there is the probity of our political line and, second, there is our national unity. The realization of the latter is contingent on the probity of our political line. We should not forget the lessons of our history as a Palestinian people.

Between the years 1936 and 1967 we went through many experiences. What are the lessons of these years? Several factors can be adduced to explain why the revolution of 1936 was aborted, but the most important of these was the fact that the Palestinian leaders of the time accepted the advice of Arab regimes.

Therefore, the proper response to Israeli practices is to have a correct political line. This is the guarantee that the uprising will continue and triumph. A correct political line would automatically guarantee national unity. These two things—a correct political line and national unity—taken together will guarantee that 2 million Palestinians inside the homeland will stand together and act as one against the Israeli plans. The only possible outcome of that is success.

After this is done, when we have a reassuringly correct political line and when we are confident of our national unity, then we can turn to other tasks. One of these tasks is to address the issue of using arms. Since the beginning of the intifadah—which must maintain its popular character—the PFLP has suggested that we should support our masses living inside the homeland by hitting the Zionist enemy's army across all Arab borders.

At present, operations are being mounted from southern Lebanon. If similar operations were conducted from the Jordanian front, the Syrian front, and the Egyptian front, that would be the best possible backing which we could give the intifadah to achieve its goals.

If we review the impact of the intifadah over the past 18 months, what can we say? As a matter of fact, the intifadah has had considerable effects on the Zionist entity, the most important of which are the great economic losses. These losses are quite extensive despite attempts by Zionist leaders to play them down. It is not hard to find indications in certain [Israeli] statements of the crisis into which the Zionist economy will be plunged if the intifadah is to continue.

Besides, there is also the confusion in which the Zionist entity now lives. There is the isolation in which the Zionist entity lives.

Is there anything missing here? What is missing is what happened in Lebanon. Israel had to withdraw from Lebanon because of its human losses. This is what is missing and this is what we should ponder well. We should maintain the popular nature of the intifadah in the West Bank and Gaza. At the same time, we should augment our efforts with an armed struggle that would not interfere with the popular nature of the intifadah. What I mean is an armed struggle against the Zionist army and Zionist forces, launched from across all the Arab borders.

[Al-Dib] Dr Habash, what in your opinion will be the outcome of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue?

[Habash] First of all, we, the PFLP, have welcomed this dialogue, regarding it as momentum created by the intifadah. This dialogue was not supposed to take place, for the U.S. Administration had adopted a clear policy of non-recognition of the PLO in any form. It is the intifadah which forced the U.S. Administration to open that dialogue.

However, this is not enough as an assessment of the dialogue. Now that the U.S. Administration has begun the dialogue, what is the aim of that dialogue as far as it is concerned? We feel that the U.S. Administration aims to abort the intifadah. This is why it has adopted Shamir's plan. Through its consultations with the PLO leadership, the United States aims to persuade it to accept Shamir's plan, either in its current form or in a modified form. The U.S. Administration knows that should the PLO leadership accept Shamir's plan, it will destroy our national unity. There is also the danger of halting the intifadah.

The U.S. Administration is seeking to persuade the PLO leadership to accept Shamir's plan. This explains the enthusiasm of the U.S. Administration as demonstrated by the message which U.S. President George Bush sent to King Hassan in Morocco, in which he called on the Arab summit not to reject Shamir's plan.

The PLO's political position on these exchanges with the U.S. Administration should become clear. The PLO should not fall into the traps set for it. It should force the U.S. Administration—by means of the continued intifadah and a correct political position—to recognize the Palestinian state, in the same way as the intifadah forced the U.S. Administration to begin a dialogue with the PLO.

[Al-Dib] Dr Habash, how do you view the result of the Arab summit, particularly in relation to Lebanese and Palestinian affairs?

[Habash] Before I present our assessment of the Arab summit where Lebanese and Palestinian affairs are concerned, I have to say that the summit was really about the Egyptian regime's return to the Arab league. This issue is of major and serious significance, and I cannot elaborate on it during a radio interview. However, stating it very simply, Egypt has returned—excuse me, I mean the Egyptian regime has returned—while it is still restrained by the Camp David accords, while the Israeli flag is still hoisted in Cairo, and while the Egyptian ambassador remains in Tel Aviv because Husni Mubarak's regime did not have the courage to recall him, despite all the unjust and repressive measures adopted by the Zionist entity against our masses in revolt. The regime was not even asked about the Camp David accord.

All this means that the entire Arab system has collapsed. This issue can be understood when we compare the official Arab position in the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's to the current official Arab position. In those years, until the Baghdad summit, the official Arab position was the refusal to recognize the Zionist entity. This was based on the fact that Palestine is an Arab state which was subjected to a Zionist invasion with links to imperialism. The imperialist goal was to make a club out of the Zionist entity to subjugate all Arab regimes. This was the established view that the Arabs and Arab regimes took of the Zionist entity, and it explains the Baghdad summit resolutions. We have to admit now that the official Arab regime as a whole has given in and collapsed before that invasion. Hence, the most important thing we have to say to our Arab masses at this moment is this: Because of the collapse of the official Arab regime, all the factions of the pan-Arab liberation movement must stand up and say that the Arab regimes' submission does not and must not mean that the Arab masses should give in. The Arab masses still believe that Palestine is Arab. They still look upon the Zionist entity as a colonizing venture. They still believe that the purpose of the organic interrelation between imperialism and the Zionist invasion is to subjugate the entire region to imperialist interests. Therefore, the Arab masses and the factions of the pan-Arab liberation movement reject this, and will continue to reject it. I declare that the Arab masses cannot surrender to the Zionist invasion. The Arab masses may resort to obligatory silence, for several reasons, perhaps for a year, perhaps for 2, 3, 4, or 5 years. However, the masses will stand up and deal with the Zionist entity as it really is. The issue of Israel is not a question of 3 million Jews who want to live in peace within the borders of the Arab homeland. If that were the case, the Arabs would have permitted them to stay, and we would have welcomed them, because this is our tradition. However, this is not the case. It is a question of an imperialist expedition to colonize, and which aims to subjugate the entire region. The Arab masses can never accept such a thing. This is the most important point.

As for the specific resolutions on the Palestinian issue, we may say that the Palestinian working paper was approved. However, the Arab summit did not adopt a definitive resolution on the Palestinian question. Our relations, as Arab regimes, with the U.S. Administration will depend on this administration's recognition of the Palestinian state. Is it not shameful that while the U.S. Administration used the veto four times in 1988, the year of the intifadah, against the Palestinian issue, Arab world imports [from the United States] in 1988 exceeded those in 1987?

We can thank them for at least approving our working paper. However, our Arab masses all over the Arab homeland must not forget the deficiency of these regimes, which fallen below the lowest acceptable level of dignity. America vetoes four resolutions, and the Arab summit does not even have the courage to react.

We believe that the summit resolutions on the Lebanese issue, as I understand them and as they are stated in the texts, reflect a serious position on reform which would be followed by elections. This is the position of the Lebanese national movement as I know it. Historically, the PFLP has always supported the national Lebanese position. The Lebanese masses must realize this.

[Al-Dib] Syrian-Palestinian meetings were held on the sidelines of the Arab summit. How do you conceive of the future of Syrian-Palestinian relations after these meetings?

[Habash] We hope matters will be handled seriously. Syrian-Palestinian relations are not a secondary or peripheral issue. Any Palestinian leadership which acts in a serious and responsible manner, particularly with regard to the intifadah and Arab support for it, and recognizes the importance of an international peace conference and the need for Arab coordination before such a conference takes place, should give priority on its agenda to Syrian-Palestinian relations. We cannot look at Syrian-Palestinian relations in the same way as we look at Palestinian-Mauritanian relations, or Palestinian relations with any Arab Maghreb country. Syrian-Palestinian relations are distinctive, and have to be distinctive, if the intifadah is to continue and attain victory, and if we are serious in seeking an international peace conference. Hence, the Palestinian leadership should seize this opportunity. I hope such meetings will not be restricted to compliments or exchanges of civilities. We hope that we will soon find ourselves sending a high-level Palestinian delegation to Damascus to correct these relations and establish the links which are dictated by our national Palestinian interests.

[Al-Dib] Dr Habash, we now move on to the subject of Lebanon. There is confusion among Lebanese patriots regarding the attitude of some PLO figures toward the current struggle in Lebanon. Some PLO leaders have made statements acclaiming Michel 'Awn as a national hero. There are those who have stated that the Palestinian rifle is at 'Awn's disposal. What is the attitude of the PFLP toward this?

[Habash] I want to tell the party [Progressive Socialist Party], I want to tell Comrade Walid Junblatt, I want to tell all Lebanese nationalist leaders, I want to tell the Lebanese national masses who embraced us from 1969 to the [1982 Israeli] invasion, I want to tell these masses and these fighters who fought with us during the invasion, I want to tell them all that I feel great shame and great sorrow when I hear reports of these statements. At the same time, I want to stress that none of the Palestinian masses—our Palestinian masses in Lebanon, in the diaspora, and in Palestine—can accept such statements.

Our rifles are with the rifles of the Lebanese national movement. We are shoulder to shoulder with the Lebanese national movement. This was the logic of history in the past, it is so at present, and it will be in the future.

[Al-Dib] What are the effects of the policy of some Palestinian leaders on the Lebanese, and on the Christians in particular?

[Habash] Naturally, you mean the statements and positions to which you have referred. I believe that their effects are negative. However, I hope you distinguish between these stands and the stands you see on the ground. What do you see on the ground? Do you not feel that the Palestinian rifle is on your side? This is my answer on this subject.

[Al-Dib] It is noticed that the Israeli attacks have resumed on Palestinian camps and national forces' positions in Lebanon. Do you expect an Israeli operation directed at the camps in Sidon?

[Habash] Israel is an aggressive entity by nature. Therefore, we must always expect aggressive plans, especially during periods when Israel is politically compelled to pursue such an agressive policy. During this particular period, Israel is very eager to suppress the intifadah morally and physically. Hence, it is not unlikely that Israel may undertake such a step.

In addition, Israel is against the Arabization of the Lebanese problem. Israel is an ally of Lahd and 'Awn. We all know that 'Awn and Lahd are against Arabization and against the resolutions which were adopted. This is another reason that might tempt Israel to confuse matters in Lebanon in order to prevent the implementation of the summit resolutions on Lebanon. Hence, Israeli attacks on Lebanon are always expected.

[Al-Dib] One last question, Dr Habash. After 18 months of the intifadah, what would you like to say to the masses of the intifadah?

[Habash] I would like to tell them to continue, to escalate, to maintain national unity, and to play their role in pressuring the PLO leadership into launching the process of democratic reform which would enable the PLO to mobilize all the Palestinian masses.

There is another thing that I want to say. This is not addressed to the intifadah masses, but rather to ourselves. I believe that the intifadah masses are doing their duty very well. However, now that 18 months have passed since the beginning of the intifadah, we, as Palestinians and Arabs, should ask ourselves the following question: Have we done our duty toward the intifadah?

The answer to this question requires some analysis. We must find out what tasks should be done in order to make our kinfolk inside the homeland feel that they are getting full, active, and solid backing from the Palestinians living outside the homeland and from all the Arab masses in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and the rest of the Arab world.

Egypt

Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold News Conference

NC1206144089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1302 GMT 12 Jun 89

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat with unidentified correspondents in Cairo on 12 June—recorded]

[Text] [Mubarak] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Let me take this opportunity to welcome, once again, my brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Cairo. Naturally, he feels at home in Cairo, which is his country and where he has many friends and brothers. A meeting between us today focused on the Palestinian issue and recent developments as well as Mr Shamir's initiative, which he stated some time ago. We do not reject the idea of an election in principle, but there are reservations or questions that need to be answered. This is our view. We discussed this topic and several other subjects dealing with bilateral relations with President Abu-'Ammar. Once again I welcome him to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Thank you.

['Arafat] I was pleased by this meeting with his excellency the president, whom I briefed on the details of the recent meeting between the Palestinian and U.S. delegations. This meeting centered on several topics, foremost among them the stand on the elections proposed by the head of the Israeli Government. We expressed our views on this subject, and I conveyed them to his excellency the president. The first question we have is: Can there be a democracy without freedom? Can there be a democracy without the right to self-determination? In addition, under what law will these elections be held? We take pride in the democracy we have within our Palestinian ranks and we cannot but support the elections in principle.

There are positions on the election issue. The first is the Arab position, which was approved by the Arab summit. According to this position, the elections must be held under international supervision, after the Israeli withdrawal, and they must be part of a comprehensive peace process. This is what the Arabs agreed upon. The other proposal, which we made more than once, was accepted by the U.S. Administration when it signed the New York agreement on Namibia. I personally declared, on behalf of my brothers in the Palestinian command and in the name of the Palestinian people, that we accept the Namibian precedent, which was accepted by the United States. Whatever the case, this is an important issue in which we undoubtedly have an interest. As we have said before, we did not reject the idea of the elections, but we, both as an Arab nation and as Palestinians, have specific questions about this issue. It must be clear that these elections are part of a comprehensive peace process and not just elections for the sake of elections.

I also briefed his excellency the president on the mediation, or should I say the good offices, that I made recently between the brothers in Mauritania and Senegal to resolve the dispute between these two sisterly countries. I also briefed his excellency the president on the new Israeli plan, particularly on the part of Israeli armed settlers, who repeatedly carry out operations against and massacres of the Palestinian people in our occupied territories. We also continued discussion on a number of issues we had taken up during the Arab summit in Casablanca recently.

There is now something very important which I have said before many times, namely that the presence of Egypt, with its cultural, historical, and human achievements and of brother President Husni Mubarak with his stature, position, wisdom, and courage in the Arab League will give great impetus to our Arab nation's march on all levels. At the same time, this is a real support for the Palestinian people and for the just Palestinian cause.

[Correspondent] President Yasir 'Arafat, there are reports that there is a Palestinian counterplan to Shamir's Israeli plan. Has this Palestinian plan been completed?

['Arafat] No. As I have told you we have clearly told the U.S. side of our views. We have also presented them in writing. There was an argument at the last meeting between the Palestinian and the U.S. sides. We heard their point of view; they listened to ours. We presented them with our view in writing on all these matters, including the points I have just mentioned, such as will elections be part of the comprehensive peace process, or will they be elections held for the sake of holding them, will democracy be separate from freedom, and will there be internaitonal supervision of these elections. All these matters are part of the Palestinian concept.

Another question deals with the law on which the elections will be based. Will they be based on Israeli law? Is it permissible to have Palestinian elections based on Israeli law? Palestinian elections can never be held on the basis of Israeli law.

[Correspondent] What is your comment, Mr President, on the participation of the masses in the occupied territories and Palestinians abroad in these elections?

['Arafat] When we agree on which law... [changes thought] Our law says that the Palestinian people are single and indivisible.

[Correspondent] Mr President, can it be said now, in the wake of recent events and following the third round of the U.S. dialogue, that there is a change in the U.S. stand?

[Mubarak] President Abu-'Ammar can [word indistinct].

['Arafat] Undoubtedly, we look very positively on recent statements by President Bush on the end of the Israeli occupation [previous six words in English]. This is a very important point that clarifies [word indistinct] which we are talking about: The end of the Israeli occupation. [previous six words in English]. Another point is Mr Baker's statements. They were quite positive when he said that Israel must abandon the dream of establishing Greater Israel. In addition to these clear and detailed statement, precise details emerged at the talks between the Palestinian and U.S. delegations. This shows the seriousness the U.S. Administration attaches to the Middle East problem and the Palestinian cause.

[Mubarak] I would like to say something about the U.S. position here. There is a very great development in the U.S. position which we should not leave out of our calculations. I believe that those who follow the statements made by the U.S. President and by Secretary of State James Baker since our last visit to the United States will find that there has been a big development and improvement in the U.S. position on solving the issue. There has also been seriousness and a sound approach to achieving a comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem. We must encourage such a line and encourage the United States of America to continue on this course because it is a constructive course completely different from previous ones.

[Correspondent—in English] Mr President, Dr Ghali is visiting Israel and meeting Israeli officials and Palestinians from the West Bank...

['Arafat—in English, interrupting] Is he?

[Correspondent—in English] Yes. Is he playing a mediation role?

[Unidentified announcer] Regarding the visit which Dr Butrus Ghali is paying to Israel and whether Egypt is playing a mediation role regarding Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's initiative, President Mubarak said: We support the Palestinian talks. When Dr Ghali goes to Israel, he talks about the proposals concerning the elections. He will inform Mr Shamir about our reservations and what questions require further clarifications in order to make a wise decision. Regarding these reservation, President Mubarak explained that they include, for example, the question of who will represent the Palestinians in these elections and which law will be the basis for this representation. There are several other questions which require clarification regarding the Palestinian representatives.

[Correspondent] A related point: The United States is looking for a gradual process while Egypt is emphasizing in its mediation between Israel and the PLO that Israel should negotiate with the PLO, which should then express agreement or opposition. Do you believe the process should be gradual or comprehensive?

['Arafat] I do not respond to speculations.

[Correspondent] President Mubarak, when Egypt plays a mediation role, is this confined to conveying ideas or does Egypt have ideas of its own?

[Mubarak] We do not work as a postman. When we embark on a role, we talk about this role. We try to aid the search for a solution out of conviction, but we definitely are not postmen.

Ghali Returns From Israel, Makes Statement

NC1206[illegible]4689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo this evening following a 2-day visit to Israel.

In an arrival statement, Dr Ghali said that he held a series of talks with Israeli Government officials. He met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and conveyed to him an oral message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He also met with Finance Minister Shim'on Peres, Minister of Science and Research Ezer Weizmann, and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Dr Ghali pointed out that this morning he met with Palestinian leaders from the West Bank, Gaza Srip, and Jerusalem.

Dr Ghali is due to submit a report to President Mubarak tomorrow on the outcome of his talks in Israel.

Confers With 'Arafat

NC1306080789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—This morning president of the State of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, received Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. During the meeting, which took place at 'Arafat's place of residence in al-Andalus Palace, they discussed developments in the Palestinian issue.

'Arafat arrived in Cairo yesterday and held talks with President Husni Mubarak. Minister Ghali returned from Israel yesterday following a 2-day visit during which he conveyed an oral message from President Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Shamir. He also met with a number of Israeli officials and Palestinian notables from the occupied land.

Latest Israeli Peace Proposal Outlined

JN1206153489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Jun 89 pp 1, 20

[Excerpts] Cairo, AL-ITTIHAD and News Agencies—Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, will leave Cairo today for Israel. Before his

departure, he held talks with a PLO delegation. Also, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry received new Israeli proposals on the peace process and these were rejected by Cairo. [passage omitted]

Informed political sources in Cairo told AL-ITTIHAD that in the past few days, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry received a new Israeli proposal on peace procedures in the region. The proposal, which was conveyed through diplomatic channels, includes the following points:

1. Egypt shall arrange periodic meetings among experts of the Egyptian, Israeli, and Jordanian foreign ministries, with the participation of a delegation from the U.S. State Department, in order to agree on determining the course of the peace process in the region during the coming phase.

2. These periodic meetings aim to agree on the necessary principles to be implemented in the elections in the occupied territories.

3. During these meetings, agreement shall be reached on the extent of the compliance of the recently proposed Isreali ideas on peace with the general course for achieving peace in the region.

4. These periodic meetings shall last between 6 to 8 months.

5. During these meetings, direct meetings shall be held between Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and Jordanian foreign minister if he wishes to.

6. Following that, Egypt shall inform the Syrian, as well as the Palestinian side, of the result of these meetings so that arrangements for peace in the region can be determined.

7. The periodic meetings shall be held alternately in Cairo and Tel Aviv, provided that foreign ministers' meetings shall be held in the U.S. capital.

The sources explained that Egypt immediately declared its rejection of the Israeli proposal and said that the proposal aims to prolong the start of the peace procedures while Egypt is interested in a quick start so that the dreadful consequences, which the Palestinians in the occupied territories suffer from due to Israel's procrastination over the peace process, can be avoided.

Mubarak Contacts Habre on Next OAU Summit

AU1206205889 Paris AFP in English 1847 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Paris, June 12 (AFP)—President Husni Mubarak of Egypt has sent a message to Chadian President Hissein Habre aimed at preparing the ground for an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) meeting in July at Addis Ababa, the Egyptian Embassy here said Monday.

Embassy spokesman Hazim Fuda said that Mr. Mubarak's message was handed over to Mr. Habre on Saturday [10 June] in Ndjamena by the Egyptian ambassador to France, Ahmad Sidqi.

Mr. Fuda said that in the message, Mr. Mubarak spoke of the efforts taken to "consolidate stability and peace in Africa and to best prepare the ground for the next summit of the Organisation of African Unity".

"President Mubarak is making efforts to reduce tension and bring the views of Chad and its neighbours closer together, as laid down in the principles and objectives of the OAU charter," Mr. Fuda said.

The official added that such efforts were based on "dialogue, the principle of good neighbourliness and mutual respect—to enable Africa to dedicate itself to the true challenges which it must face".

Meanwhile, Mr. Sidqi was given a message by Mr. Habre for the Egyptian leader, expressing the Chadian president's "appreciation" of Mr. Mubarak's intitative, according to Mr. Fuda.

Such appreciation reflected "the Egyptian head of state's audience in Africa and in the Arab world," Mr. Fuda said.

Observers said that Egypt's move follows Chadian accusations that Libya and Sudan were preparing to invade Chad from neighbouring Sudan, and that the Khartoum government was backing Chadian dissidents on its territory.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Address on U.S. Evacuation

LD1106182489 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Address by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at Wheelus Airbase, now known as M'itiqah Airbase, on 11 June, marking the 19th anniversary of the evacuation of U.S. forces from Libya—live or recorded]

[Text] O brothers, we stand today in the heart of Wheelus Base, which is today known as M'itiqah Airbase. The striking Air Force of the great Jamahiriyah has saluted this day. This air space, this land, and this sea had been under the imperialist control, and there used to be flags hoisted, flags of false independence which were still born. Laying in the shadow of these bases were the agents of imperialism, members of the treacherous Sanusi family and its lackey ministers, MP's [members of parliament], ambassadors. Like all the other lackeys and traitors they have been swept like dogs before the revolution, and still feed on the remains of the food of their American masters. The curse is chasing them, the curse of the free people, the people who are today celebrating vigorously over the liberated land which only yesterday

was forbidden for this people. This airspace was forbidden, this land was forbidden, and this sea was forbidden for the people who own the land.

The curse of the people, the curse of history, and the curse of the martyrs are upon those who sold this valuable land and who cheaply handed it over to their colonialist masters. Those who sold this sacred land paid no price, neither from their fathers nor from their forefathers nor from themselves. They are the offspring of traitors and agents who carried the fascist Mussolini on their shoulders shouting: Here comes the dawn for us after a long wait. Those were the people who ruled Libya before the revolution—all the traitorous families, the families which carried on their shoulders the fascist Italians and welcomed their arrival. These are the families which installed themselves as kings, princes, ministers, deputies, ambassadors and senior officials, those who were ruling Libya, ruling the land of our fathers and forefathers who fought for it, sacrificed for it, and who have the right to live free over it.

Today, O brothers, we stand over and in the heart of Wheelus Base which today is the M'itiqah Base, saluting our guests representing foreign countries. We also salute leaders of the sister Egyptian opposition parties. We also salute the strugglers of South Africa and welcome the daughter of the imprisoned struggler Nelson Mandela.

Brothers, nearly 10 years have passed—that is, from 1981 until 1989. These 8 years have passed as well as a few years before when we wrestled with U.S. arrogance and their attempts to return to this base, impose control over the land and our waters, and flagrantly interfere in our internal affairs. Finally, their arrogance was crowned with the flagrant aggression which was condemned by the entire world. U.S. arrogance was defeated. It faced a willful adversary over Libyan soil. The mad Reaganite administration, which was the peak of imperialism, tried throughout its nearly 10 years, tried to subjugate Libya. It tried to sway us from our principles and make us deviate from our objectives. It tried by promise and by threat to defame the al-Fatih revolutionaries and to divert us from the objectives of the revolution and make us abandon the historic mission of uniting the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf, and to make us abandon the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea, and make us abandon socialism, and abandon the development of our relations with the progressive socialist camp in the world. It tried to force us to abandon our support for the struggle of the peoples for freedom. O brothers, the U.S. imperialist Reagan administration tried in various ways all along the last 8 years to subjugate us as it had subjugated others, believing that everyone is liable to be subjugated. It tried bad examples with us, foreign examples. The Sanusi family ruled, or indeed they made it rule this country, believing that all Arabs are similar to those treacherous examples. It used to believe that flexing muscles and the parade of naval and air fleets and the amassing of aircraft carriers before our shores would make us submit or be frightened. It tried to terrorize us, O brothers, with every means of power in its possession, this colonialist imperialist empire, however, failed to subjugate us, failed to terrorize us.

It has failed in terrorizing us. It has, O brothers, failed to frighten us and make us retreat. It has tried to confront us directly to test our resolve, our statements, and our determination. It became certain that the statements which were issued could be written in blood at any hour. We colored the waters of the Gulf of Sidra with the pure and chaste blood of martyrs of the Arab Libyan Air Force and the Arab Libyan Navy. It was also colored with the blood of the invading U.S. pilots and its Marines.

O brothers, we are not only celebrating today the anniversary of the liberation of this base and the other four bases on which America used to depend from the Gulf of Sidra to the imaginary borders of Tunisia; we are also celebrating victory in a battle with lasted for 8 years, during which we fought against this savage and barbaric force. In the end our will triumphed, O brothers. We never succumbed nor retreated in any of our battles before the U.S. threat. U.S. arrogance tried to force us away from our alliance with our brothers. It intended to deal a blow to our alliance with Syrian steadfastness in the frontline trench of the Arab nation on the borders of occupied Palestine and in the Golan. However, we stood our ground and were determined to develop and strengthen the alliance with historic Syrian steadfastness, the only remaining position before the enemy. America terrorized us and tried to make us break our alliance with the Syrian steadfastness. However, we preferred death to abandoning our brothers in the front line trench. Brothers: America tried with its Reaganite force to make us abandon the pan-Arab battle in the Lebanese arena. But we did not and will not abandon it. America failed, and it was America who was defeated when the Lebanese Arab fedayin managed to destroy the Marine camps. They went back in hundreds in their coffins.

Brothers, America was defeated. U.S. soldiers were killed on the soil of Lebanon. As for the banners of al-Fatih, they have never been flown at half-mast on Lebanese soil. They are still fluttering [applause], along with the Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian, and Islamic resistance flags.

Brothers, brute and unjust U.S. power tried to force us to abandon the alliance with the masses of our Arab nation, particularly those along our borders. But we have resolved to challenge it and to continue the alliance with the Egyptian people, the Sudanese people, the Chadian people, the Tunisian people, and the Algerian people, despite U.S. threats. America continuously threatened Libya, saying it has to give up its alliance with these peoples. If we abandon our alliance with the peoples of the Arab nation, especially those along our borders, this would mean abandoning our principles and our aims.

What is left for us then if we abandon the struggle of our Arab nation, brothers. America wants this nation to submit. It wishes to divide us. It wants to dominate us. The alliance of Arab peoples, the bolstering of efforts, and inciting the Arab nation to liberation and unity destroy unlawful imperialist U.S. interests on Arab soil and in the Arab homeland.

Thus, the Tunisian people have triumphed, the borders between the Libyan and Tunisian peoples have disappeared, and the Tunisian and Libyan peoples have become one Arab people. There are no more restrictions, no more obstacles, and no more passports. The 7 of November was the new star of North Africa which has shone on this region. It counts on the support of the al-Fatih revolution and the people of the Great Jamahiriyah which have adopted it since its birth, O brothers. It is now growing and gaining power. On 7 November rapid developments took place which stunned imperialism in the Arab Maghreb and the Arab region as the unionist action was crowned with the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union. [crowd chants]

O brothers, the U.S. treacherous, brute force tried to make us bend and abandon the people of Sudan in its struggle against fascism, because the dwindling Numayri fascism was preparing the Sudanese soil to become a base for U.S. Reaganite imperialism. However, O brothers, we fought side by side with the masses of the Sudanese people and its national parties until fascism fell, against Reagan's will. [crowd chants]

The fall of fascism in Khartoum was at the height of the U.S. Reaganite defiance to us. Through a display of U.S. fleets near our shores, the issuance of warning threats, the air raids, the bombings and missiles, the U.S. Reaganite imperialist administration thought that this would be enough to frighten us and that we would abandon the struggle to defeat the hireling fascist U.S. Reaganite imperialism in Khartoum. However, despite the threats, the muscle-flexing, the display of fleets and aircraft carriers, our voice was stronger than the U.S. aircraft carriers, against the agents of Reaganite America, against fascism, and alongside the peoples struggling for freedom. [applause]

Fascism fell in Khartoum and the Sudanese people, who were our first ally, triumphed, and the fascist agents of America, with whom Reagan allied, fell before Reagan under the feet of the Sudanese people, the ally of the great historical al-Fatih revolution.

Thus, O brothers, all the battles which the U.S. Reaganite imperialism faced us with in the past years ended with a defeat of U.S. imperialism and with our victories on these fields. It tried to be hostile and to conspire against the revolutionary alliance between the revolution of 1.5 million martyrs of Algeria, the heroes of Algeria, and the Libyan people.

It issued public and flagrant statements against [word indistinct]. Reaganite America does not permit unity or revolutionary alliance between Algeria and Libya. More cohesion with the revolution of 1.5 million martyrs was the answer to, and against, the will of Reagan, America, and its forces. A draft was drawn up for the unionist constitution. It is at present subject to research and study and will be submitted for referendum by the people of Algeria and Libya.

U.S. imperialism, brothers, tried in the Reaganite era, which has ended, to stop the Libyan Arab Islamic revolutionary tide on the African Continent. However, against its will we have forged an allience with the revolutionaries of Uganda, headed by the revolutionary Museveni; we triumphed in Uganda. Uganda returned as a revolutionary, progressive ally of the Libyan people against the will of America. That happened at the height of the confrontation with Reaganite America. The revolution in Uganda triumphed with the supplies, armaments, training, and the open alliance between ourselves and the popular revolution in Uganda. The revolution in Uganda was triumphant and today Uganda is an ally of Libya, contrary to the will of the collapsed Reaganite U.S. imperialism.

At the height of the violent confrontation with this beast, who relies on brute force, and who lacks any logical justifications for his animosity against us and the small nations like ourselves, and against the cause of freedom, the revolution in Burkina Faso triumphed through our alliance with it and our aid toward all its needs against the will of Reagan, who was in a rage. He flexed his muscles by parading his forces, aircraft carriers, and his mighty naval fleets off the Libyan shores. At that time the revolution in Burkina Faso, Uganda, Sudan, and Tunisia triumphed through Libya's action. He was in a rage because the aircraft carrier and the huge fleets failed and the small revolutionary forces which were not equipped with the destructive weapons possessed by America triumphed.

The Reaganite empire believed that only with aircraft carriers, missiles, and military force would the world change according to its wishes and whims, and that matters would go as decided by the aircraft carriers and fleets. Imperial ignorance and stupidity, and the folly of force, arrogance, and high-handedness rendered imperialism unable to understand other facts that lead to results unacceptable to imperialism, and these results triumph despite imperialism.

Imperialism ignores the power of the masses, the moral power of revolutionaries, and the aspirations of all to emancipation and liberation. People do not want to live in the shadow of threats; even the American people itself have tired of its country's policy of force and terrorizing other peoples.

Brothers, today, as I told you, we commemorate not just the anniversary of the liberation of this base, but our victory in a battle that lasted almost 10 years with a power unequal to us, with a tyrannical, wrongdoing power whose soul is arrogance, high-handedness, imposing domination, and the insane desire to bring all to their knees, and an aspiration to become the sole international policeman that none of the world's population has appointed, a self-appointed policeman to the East and West, the Near East, the Middle East, and the Far East, and all the continents of the world.

America did not know of vanished empires, because Reaganite America was the peak of ignorance, triviality, and stupidity. The only thing it did was hatch vile conspiracies, assassination attempts, intrigues, and threats, and muscle-flexing like Tarzan and like in children's films. It was totally ignorant of history, and that before Reagan there was Kamiz, who believed that he could expand his empire from Persia to Greece, but he was obliterated, and all those who listen to us today do not know who Kamiz was. This was in the 6th century before Christ.

There was also Alexander the Great. He planned to extend his empire from Macedonia to India; however, it disappeared. Hulago wanted to stretch his empire from China to the Mediterranean; however, Hulgo perished. The Ottoman empire believed that it constituted the cresent of the world and Asia Minor as the star in the middle of that cresent, and even if that cresent disappeared it would return as a full moon. However, this empire disappeared. There are numerous empires mentioned in history books and time does not permit talking about them all; however, we would like to say that the imperialist Reaganist empire was ignorant of these facts.

And Reagan was ignorant of the fact that he was one of those insignificant people who are filled with arrogance and false greatness, driven by power madness and believe that they are capable of controlling the globe. As Kamiz, Alexander, and Hulago believed, so did Reagan. Empires do not last, O brothers. For empires stretch at the expense of others, and those, even if they are subjugated for a time, they do not obey forever. The peoples subjugated by the empires of invasion and enslavement rose in revolution and destroyed those empires. The people were triumphant. Whenever a colonialist, imperialist empire turned tyrannical, the end result was the disappearance of that empire, and only the peoples remain, whether that empire was built on theological doctrine, or based on force or an any other justification. We are saying this to raise our morale, and to trust the fact that the peoples remain and triumph in the end.

The American empire stretched until it reached this base. Here in this square there used to be hundreds of American aircraft, bombers and fighters, and also the nuclear bombs carriers. This base was the largest training base outside the United States. They even considered it a star on the American flag.

This base was supported by four other bases: a maritime base at Sidra, a depot in Birqayat 'Umar Bin-Milad, a training base in al-Watijah, and a long-distance strategic telecommunication base in Tajurai. America believed that it had a foothold on this land, settled down, and dug in its tent pegs. It believed that its edifice had become solid, indestructible, and immoveable. America believed that it had gained an important postion on the southern coast of the Mediterranean and that from this coast it was closing on its ultimate target—the Soviet Union and the socialist camp—after trampling these peoples under foot.

Libya and occupied Palestine were fundamental necessities for the imperialist U.S. presence in the southern coast of the Mediterranean, but after an historic and unexpected night, America found itself next morning at its weakest in the sourthern coast of the Mediterranean; I found that the Libyans had besieged Wheelus Base with their rifles and machineguns, thus forcing hundreds of giant aircraft to remain grounded like rusty iron pieces. They were forbidden to take to the air, to fly, and to do training. This base fell when the free unionist officers surrounded it in the dawn of the great historic al-Fatih. It fell with its gigantic power, and so did all its supporting bases.

America then realized that it was on other people's territory and that these people were the ones to triumph in the end. The owners of the land were the ones to triumph. America found itself faced with the decisiveness of the Libyan people, the decisiveness of the free unionist officers, and their courageous troops who had decided to either die or triumph. [applause] On the great al-Fatih, America found itself extremely weak, unable to move in all its gigantic bases. All America's high-handedness became impotent, incapable. This base became zero.

Finally, the U.S. ambassador, Joseph Palmer, came to us, begging us—I remember his name—to give permission that their aircraft may fly from Libya to Europe. We demanded from him any aircraft that left must not return, and if it returned it would be shot down and the base would be destroyed. [applause]

Thus American aircraft—squadron after squadron—began to take off from this base and fly to U.S. bases in occupied West Germany, left over from the World War II when the United States occupied Germany. The United States will evacuate the German bases as it did from this land; it will evacuate them one day. From that day, America should have realized that military power is not enough to impose its domination on others. America should have understood that the will of the peoples—even if the latter are unarmed, weak, poor, and small in number—is stronger than the mad desire to dominate peoples and impose arrogance, domination, and expansion.

But an ignorant and stupid U.S. Administration came to power—the Reaganite administration, with which we entered into this bitter struggle—which brothers I talked to you about. A small nation, 3 million in number,

continued to struggle against a nation whose population is about 300 million in number, and a small force confronted the prime international power. We did so with our free voices, which we raised louder than the roar of the U.S. aircraft and the U.S. aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean. Our voices, backed by death and the resolve to die or triumph, our voices which are free of any fear or submission, were stronger than the noise of the U.S. laser bombs which America dropped on our houses and streets during the night of 14 April 1986.

Brothers, we defied with our Air Force, limited compared with that of the United States which has thousands of aircraft, we defied the U.S. aircraft carriers and sacrificed our dearest sons, and our aircraft fell. But the bodies of our martyred pilots were a bridge that America could not cross—it was a bridge along the line of death.

Their pure blood was the ink with which we wrote that the Gulf of Sidra is an indivisible part of our soil. With their blood, turned it into a red gulf as we said. [crowd chants, applauds] We resisted, O brothers, with our limited naval weapons—as compared to the arms of the United States, which has several fleets and aircraft carriers and has bases in Europe, the Mediterranean Sea, and everywhere in the world. We resisted with our limited naval force the attempt to violate the line of death and we offered tens of martyrs from the Libyan Navy in the Gulf of Sidra.

However, as I said, their bodies were a bridge which the enemy did not cross. Their blood was the ink with which we wrote that the Gulf of Sidra is ours. [applause] At the same time, the Gulf of Sidra was colored with the blood of the U.S. invaders. O brothers, all the U.S aircraft which tried to cross [the gulf] in March 1986 fell on the line of death. All of them fell. However, the United States, which has a false sense of greatness and cannot tell the truth to its own citizens is loathe to tell the world that a small people and a small power downed its aircraft on the line of death. The United States did not announce its losses on the line of death in March 1986. How many aircraft were shot down while trying to cross the line of death and were hit by missiles? The bodies of the American pilots were being eaten by fish and the remains were being washed up by the sea on the shores. They were food for the fish in the Mediterranean Sea because they tried to attack us; they tried to test whether the 32.5 parallel is really the line of death. However, the United States knows now that the 32.5 parallel is effectively the line of death. We are prepared to die on this line. So, we confirm to them that it is the line of death. We are able at the same time to kill them on the line of death and we have killed them.

I am saying that we are celebrating today. We triumphed in that bitter battle against a mighty power, which tried to subjugate us, terrorize us, and dominate us. I urge you, O brothers, to read a book which was written by the Americans and which must be translated. Its translation into the Arabic language must be started now. The title of this book is: "Veil" ["Al Niqab"].

This book talks about the U.S. secret war since 1981, when the confrontation between us began. For several days the entire United States—the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, the National Security Council, the CIA—was immobilized; it could not even think about U.S. interests or problems. Beginning at dawn [on that day], all these offices, under Reagan's leadership were working on nothing except the Libyan file and the Libyan problem and Al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan people—astonishing! Strange! A superpower which should have gotten up in the morning to discuss its deteriorating situation at home and the millions of unemployed, homeless, and those who live on the streets, it should have discussed the international balance with its big adversary—the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact.

But we saw the United States up at dawn discussing the Libyan issue: How can we kill Al-Qadhdhafi? How can we get rid of Al-Qadhdhafi? How can we bring Libya to heel? How can we return to Wheelus Base? How can we destroy Libya? How can we compel Libya? How can we intimidate Libya? You will see [in this book] some very trivial things carried out by the U.S. President personally and the senior officials during his term. They conspired in a very base manner; they stooped to a level which even an ordinary spy or conspirator would not stoop to. A thief would not have done that. They thought about poison—assassination by poison, assassination by using lead in food; they thought about killing; they thought about terrorism. In this book "Veil," which you ought to read and which will be translated into Arabic for your benefit, you will see how during the past 8 years when we were singing, dancing, and defying the United States, the United States was in a state of emergency. Throughout his era and because of you, Reagan used martial law [as heard]. He issued decisions on his own according to a law which allows the U.S. President to do these things himself under the protection of martial law if U.S. interests abroad are threatened. Reagan believed that U.S. interests were being threatened by the existence of Libya. Thus, he imposed a flagrant dictatorship on the United States.

He sold weapons. He traded in weapons; he traded in poisons; he traded in drugs; he personally put them in sacks and boxes. He ordered that they be dropped over Libyan shores so that the Libyan people could be drugged. Just look at these absurdities. You will find all of them in this book which has exposed America and how America was under martial law for 8 years during Reagan's time, for the sake of Libya. Despite all this Reagan failed. He tied up the sacks and nailed the boxes. He sent the planes; the fleets thundered and he himself cried and screamed, became angry, and he acted. He became like a moth when it circles around a flame.

He collided with a stubborn foe—the Libyan people, the Libyan revolution. [applause] He collided with the Jamahiriyah model. Brothers, here he collided with a foe which embodies the pride of the Arab nation. We here embody the pride of the Arab nation. When we faced America along this coast we did not face it only as Libyans. We faced it as the pride of the Arab nation, the glory of the Arab nation, and with the Arab and Palestinian banners. We embodied the hopes of the enslaved masses which were unable to say what we used to say. We spoke for them. Even the peoples who joined our cause and opposed the mad Reaganite administration and supported the Libyan people in their numerous confrontations on all the fronts against America—all of them wanted the U.S. imperialist empire (?to end).

The Italian people, the French people, the German people, the Scandinavian people, the British people, the persecuted forces of blacks and red Indians, Muslims and the rest of the inhabitants of America, the peoples of Latin America suffer from America's domination and exploitation and the support of fascism against them. Brothers, all these peoples, from the Philippines to America itself, all of them stood alongside the Libyan people in its heroic, historic, and spectacular struggle against the American empire, against its arrogance worldwide, and against the attempts to impose domination and hegemony by brute force. All the nations were with us. The U.S. Administration found itself isolated, detested, ostracized by the masses and all nations. All the peoples aspire for peace.

The Libyan people want peace on their soil. America wants to transgress against Libya on its own soil. All the peoples want to enjoy freedom in order to be happy. The Libyan people want to be free on their own soil so that they can enjoy happiness, America wants to spoil it for us and terrify us so that we may not enjoy freedom or live in the shadow of happiness. Consequently, all the peoples stood alongside the fighters for freedom. All human beings want to enjoy happiness. The road to happiness is freedom. The hostile, expansionist, imperialist policies contradict the aspirations of the nations to freedom and happiness on the soil of their fathers and forefathers.

We did not invade America, brothers. We are here on our land and the land of our grandfathers. We want to live free under the sun; we deserve such life. America does not want this. It wants to dominate the world. It wants to transform the world into a land belonging to the United States, as you see in space adventure films, or in children's films. But on this planet there are peoples who are stronger than the fleets. The aircraft carriers cannot penetrate into the desert. How can America control the people of the desert when they rebel against American domination? When American aircraft reached the coastline of Banghazi and Tripoli and failed, they announced that the desert had affected the American electronics. Even their aircraft, when they reached the coast, failed in their aggressive mission.

It was said that the desert sand, heat and atmosphere affected the electronics. Therefore electronics are incapable of defeating the desert. The aircraft carriers are incapable of crossing the desert. Therefore the desert is stronger than the aircraft carriers, the bombers, and the American electronics. [applause]

The important part of this confrontation was over the Gulf of Sidra. The unjust Reagan administration, brothers, claimed that Libya was violating international law and was extending its territorial waters to 450 miles or 720 km, while the limit of territorial waters recognized by the Law of the Sea is 12 miles or 22 km. Brothers, we reply by saying that that was a falsification of the facts. We did not extend our territorial waters to more than 12 miles; we acknowledge this fact which the world recognizes. But the Gulf of Sidra has no relationship whatever with territorial waters. The Gulf of Sidra belongs to Libya, and is part of it in accordance with international law—the Law of the Conference on the Sea, which went on for 7 years discussing the question of the gulfs. The conference issued the Law of the Sea, after 7 years of study. Historic or vital gulfs are exempted from the other gulfs which naturally and physically belong to the country concerned. In other words, if a gulf is small, whose area, width and entrance have been defined, the sea law says that it naturally belongs to the concerned state. But the large gulfs, not like the Gulf of Sidra, belong to the concerned state only if they are either historic or vital. But the Gulf of Sidra is both historic and vital, and therefore, it is an indivisible part of the Libyan territory in accordance with international law, the Law of the Sea, and the American Reaganite administration had misrepresented matters to the world and told everyone that Libya had extended its territorial waters by 450 miles. This, brothers, is a pure lie.

Like other states of the world we stick to 12 miles, but the Gulf of Sidra, which lies between Misratah and Banghazi, is inside the guts of Libya, and anyone entering it enters Libyan territory. Furthermore, Libyan sovereignty has included the Gulf of Sidra since Roman times. When they occupied Libya, the Romans considered the Gulf of Sidra an internal gulf, and an indivisible part of the land they occupied. On the other hand, the Ottoman state occupied Libya for 6 centuries, and for 6 centuries Ottoman sovereignty covered the Gulf of Sidra, considering it part of the Ottoman province of Libya.

Likewise, the Italians, when they occupied Libya for more than a generation, more than 30 years, they extended their sovereignty to the Gulf of Sidra as an indivisible part of their colony Libya. And the Americans, when they were in this base, they considered the Gulf of Sidra part of Libya, and exercised their maritime and air control over the Gulf of Sidra from their bases in Libyan territory. But when Libya became free, undermined the bases of America and recovered the Gulf of Sidra just as it did all its occupied territories, America

said that Libya had extended its territorial waters and took over a gulf that did not belong to it. If the Gulf of Sidra does not belong to Libya, then to whom does it belong? To America?

The direct line from Misratah to Banghazi is the northern border of the Gulf of Sidra. We allow only innocent maritime navigation to cross this line. Merchant ships can enter, but without permission from Libya, without an agreement warships cannot enter. The fight for the Gulf of Sidra ended with the shooting of American airplanes and American troops, and by the offering of martyrs from among the Libyan people's sons over the Gulf of Sidra.

The battle was lost for America. It suffices today that all the nonaligned states, which represent the overwhelming majority of states in the world, have decided that the Gulf of Sidra is an indivisible part of the Libyan homeland. [applause] The Arab summit conferences—an Arab emergency summit was convened in Algiers; it unanimously decided—all the Arab states—that the Gulf of Sidra is an indivisible part of Libya. Even international conventions say that the Gulf of Sidra is an an historic and vital gulf; all Libyan oil terminuses are located on the Gulf of Sidra. The Libyan petrochemical industries and the huge complexes are located on the Gulf of Sidra, all the oil fields extend toward the Gulf of Sidra. Then the Gulf of Sidra is vital—it is not only historic, it is vital—it cannot be compromised or ceded, because it extends into Libyan land. He who enters the Gulf of Sidra goes beyond Misratah and Banghazi. The Gulf of Sidra will be defended to the death. it will remain forever. [crowd applauds, cheers]

The Arab states at the emergency summit in Casablanca reaffirmed once again that the Gulf of Sidra is an indivisible part of Libyan territory according to international conventions which say that historic and vital gulfs are indivisible parts of the countries they belong to. Thus all the nonaligned states and all the fraternal Arab states declared after this battle that the Gulf of Sidra is an indivisible part of Libya, and supported our steadfastness and resolution, and our declaration, which we announced before the states recognized that the Gulf of Sidra is Libyan. When America attacks the Gulf of Sidra it is carrying out aggression on Libyan soil and stands condemned by all the states which declared that the Gulf of Sidra is an indivisible part of Libyan soil. The battle ended and it was won, brothers, in the Gulf of Sidra. We made sacrifices for the sake of the Gulf of Sidra and gained the world's judgment that the Gulf of Sidra is ours. Another defeat was inflicted on the Reaganist American administration in its collapsed era.

America tried to do its utmost in this lost battle—as far as it was concerned—to isolate Libya from its Arab nation. Even if it succeeded one day in isolating some Arab rulers from the Libyan people, that isolation is meaningless because unity is with peoples. Neither America nor anyone else will ever succeed in isolating the Arab people in Libya from the Arab people in Iraq or in Tunisia or in Mauritania or in Egypt or in Lebanon or in the Sudan or anywhere else in the Arab homeland. [crowd applauds, cheers] The only isolation is when we are isolated by the people and by the masses. But all the Arab overt and covert revolutionary forces are with us; all the Arab nation is with us; all the living forces of the Arab nation are with us. We are the historic and natural ally of the Arab citizen in the street. We are an ally of the poor, the exploited, the unjustly treated, the subjugated—these are the forces which will triumph tomorrow; they will write the new history; they will draw up the new map—these are the oppressed force in the street—the force of the sudents, the soldiers, the small officials, the peasants, the hired workers—this force which knows that what is taking place on Libyan soil reaffirms its right to life and raises its morale and consolidates its position. [applause]

This is the force which neither America nor anyone else will be able to isolate from us. We will remain the natural ally of this force until it triumphs. But even at the official level we find that today Libya enjoys full Arab solidarity. Real solidarity has been achieved. But as a unionist and as a revolutionary I hesitate a great deal when I mention the word solidarity; but this is the Arab reality that exists today—there is solidarity, but we want to develop this into unity. As revolutionaries and unionists we advocate union and not solidarity—we can have solidarity with the peoples of Latin America. But we do not advocate solidarity with the peoples of our Arab nation. We unite ourselves with the peoples of our Arab nation—we integrate with them. We are one Arab people and live in one Arab homeland; there is but one Arab nation. There is no room here for solidarity; there is only room for unity and integration and one destiny. [applause and cheers]

Brothers, today while we are standing in the middle of Wheelus Base—now the martyr Mi'itiqah [woman killed by guards of the base], we say that solidarity and mutual support, which will, God willing, lead to unity, is at its peak and at its strongest. America was banking even on official estrangement between the Arab regimes and the revolutionary regime in Libya. But as shown recently, official cohesiveness between Libya and Arab regimes is unshakable, even regarding the regimes with which we were officially in disagreement—a matter that America and other states were hailing. We say that today, after attending the Algiers summit and the Casablanca summit, that we have agreed on the unity of Arab ranks, with the aim of turning this unity into that of Arab objectives.

I am saying that an Arab objective does exist. If there was no common Arab objective, there would not be a unified Arab rank or a joint Arab action.

Therefore, we have defined strategic objectives and we have decided to save the Arab nation by all means at the current stage. Even if a strong storm is blowing over this nation, and if this nation is stooping before this storm, it is just waiting for this storm to pass and then the nation

will raise its head. At the Algiers and Casablanca summit conferences there was a serious assessment of the Arab present and future, and we have come to the conclusion that without Arab unity there is no guaranteed future for the coming Arab generations. And with the emergence of the economic, political, and military power of Europe after 1992—when Europe becomes a unified political power proceeding from the EEC, its economic base—we are convinced that without Arab unity, the Arabs will not be able to live in this time that has become the time of giants and superpowers. There is the Warsaw Pact, the NATO pact, the EEC, China, which is a quarter of the world, and India. Alliances are appearing in Latin America; a new force is to appear in Latin America which will constitute yet another weight. There is on the other side the United States, which is half the world.

Only Africa remains as a sphere of influence. It is a mine for the industrial states and a plantation for America. It is the same for the Arab area and Southeast Asia. What made me happy is that the slogans which we have been saying for 20 years, and which we urged our Arab brothers to raise, our Arab brothers have at last become convinced that these slogans are right. We raised the call for unity when some rulers were asking: What is unity? What do you want with unity? The unity of Europe takes the credit unfortunately—or fortunately—for awakening the Arab realization that without unity they are not wanted. It means that when West Europe unites in 1992, it will refuse to deal with Arab states individually. They have already said that after 1992 we will not accept Libya; we will not accept Tunisia; we will not accept Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria—small states—we will not deal with them. We will deal with a big bloc, therefore do not ask us to deal with you as separate states.

If an Arab state in North Africa goes to Europe to buy something from Europe; it will not be able to do so. It is because the European state from which we used to do our buying and used to deal with and sell to it our goods has now become part of a united West Europe. Subsequently, it cannot take a decision singly by dealing with that Arab state but only after the European group decides. That is, if you used to sell oranges to Germany, Germany will not now buy oranges. Only if Italy, Spain, Portugal, Britain, and all these states agree, will it will buy oranges from Libya. It is possible that Italy will come along and say: I have oranges; Germany is not allowed to buy oranges from Libya because there is one country in the EEC which has oranges. If Tunisia wanted to sell oil to France, France will not buy this oil from Tunisia from now on unless Spain and Italy agree. Spain may come and say: I have oil, and France should not deal with Tunisia because what is available in the EEC must first be consumed. Afterward they would discuss what they prefer. But as it used to be before this—when Spain was free to buy and sell, and France used to buy and sell to Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Morocco—this will no longer be possible. European unity takes the credit for making the Arabs become sure that without unity we cannot live in this age.

Consequently, this is the main thing. It means that we have agreed that Arab unity, to which you have always aspired, has become necessary; it has become necessary, and it is not an emotional thing. The same slogans which we used to raise and say that Arab unity is necessary; they used to say why it is necessary and now they have become sure that it is necesary.

We have become certain that the historic enemies of the Arab nation—imperialism and Zionism—is a real enemy in actual fact. If they find weakness in us or division they will enter and exploit it in their favor. And the enemies will not be merciful with us in the future. We have become sure of Zionism and imperialism and have decided that they are the enemy. We must confront them with economic power, defensive power, with all the Arab nation's potentials.

We agreed that inter-Arab feuds are useless. We tried these for decades—they are useless. We said that if any Arab people do not like thier own regime let them change it themselves. No other Arab people can tell another Arab people... [sentence incomplete as heard]. Those who live in rented houses feel exploitation; they should take possession of the houses and apply the saying [from the Green Book] "houses are for those who live in them." He who produces and gives up his production in favor of others should declare: He who produces should consume his own production if he feels that he is being unjustly treated.

Under the shadow of this unjust U.S. confrontation these victories were realized. Revolution triumphed in Uganda and in Burkina Faso and in Ghana and Nicaragua and Iran. Liberation movements are still active against fascism, imperialism, domination, control in South Africa, in the Philippines, in Ireland, and so on—the battle is still blazing and we support it. [applause].

Thus the United States lost in its stubborn confrontation with us—its ferocious confrontation with us. This small people, confronting this imperialist force won the battle. With the removal of borders with Tunisia, Algeria, and the Sudan things returned to normal. Imagine, the Libyan and Tunisian peoples—the checkpoint was something which was erected by the Italians and the French to separate us. When I demolished it with a tractor we suddenly became one people. We no longer recognize that this person is Libyan and this one is Tunisian. In Tunisia they do the same. They live together, they eat together, they buy and sell and work as they wish. It used to be a checkpoint—it was a falsification of our will; it lasted for a long time. They forcibly separated the Arab people from each other.

When I reached agreement with President Husni Mubarak in Casablanca [applause] to remove the borders, you saw—I personally was surprised—how the Libyans celebrated—music and drums. This means that they were supressed on this issue; it means that we—

Libyans and Egyptian—are one people who used to be forcibly divided by the British and the Italians [cheers] Yes, exactly—from Morocco to Bahrain.

Brothers, thus the checkpoints disappeared and our unionist and Jamahiriyah call triumphed. We used to ask: Is this not a single Arab people divided by force, by checkpoints, and imaginary borders? And now, what we used to say has been proved right. The Arab people are one people extending from Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan. Now no borders exist. In our confrontation with Reaganite America, the United States wanted the borders to be consolidated still further and the division to deepen. Divide and rule. But our will was the one which triumphed at every battle.

What did the United States reap from its confrontation with Libya? It reaped loss, embarrassment, and bitterness while we have won the entire world to our side. It was because we are a small people who faced a great power, a great power which in the end attacked with its planes; is it conceiveable that a small people facing aircraft carriers can fail to win the support of the world? The closer the United States gets to our shores the closer the people get to us.

You have seen it at al-Rabitah—Arab pharmacists, Arab doctors, Arab workers, all the Arab trade unions, have all come and sat at al-Rabitah. Al-Rabitah has been turned into a deployment place. All the Arabs said that if the United States hits al-Rabitah we will be here holding a sit-in in al-Rabitah. [applause] Arab unity has today become part of the official policy of the Arabs, whether right or left wing. This is what we have emerged with from the sumit conferences. As for Egypt, even before this meeting we used to call for the removal of borders between the two peoples. And here we are, the borders between the two peoples have disappeared. Thanks be to God.

As for strategic issues, we have discussed them with Egypt. We now know Egypt's stand toward Zionism, imperialism, the issue of the Palestinian people, etc. We have agreed about strategic matters. We have to keep our affairs secret. [applause]

Egypt is a fraternal state. It inherited a difficult situation which requires the effort of the Arab nation so that it can do without the United States and others. What is required now is not to attack it but to help it and to ally ourselves with it. We have agreed that Libya and Egypt are two Arab states which are closest to each other. I told the Arabs; I told them: If you harm Egypt we are much closer to each other. [applause]

In fact, when I met with President Husni Mubarak all the Arabs felt that the Libyans and the Egyptians are closer to one another than to other Arabs. And it was as if we were together from the beginning. They were surprised and astonished. I told them: Libyans and Egyptians are closer to one another even politically.

Naturally; when they say the Tunisian people and Libyan people are actually one people; they mean one family. A family who lives in Tunisia or in Libya is actually divided into two. But politically, emotionally, and ideologically we must know that [passage indistinct] Libya is always closer to Egypt. It is because there was a political isolation between Libya and Tunisia and other countries in the past years. Tunisia had isolation imposed on it. Yesterday it was isolated from Libya so that the wind of the revolution and the wind of socialism and the wind of the Jamahiriyah would not blow there.

The 7th of November was the date which destroyed the isolation imposed on Tunisia. Tunisia had been isolated for decades. The Libyan people used to have links in faith, in politics, and in sentiments with Egypt; add to this the fact that the Libyan and Egyptian peoples—as is the case with the Tunisian people—are one people. The tribes in the desert, which we call the eastern desert and which is called in Egypt the western desert, is a desert common to both—one calls it eastern and the other western. It is a unionist demographic bridge linking the two countries. Naturally, it was unjust that isolation should be imposed on this one people and that they should be divided into two peoples.

As for Egypt, you Libyans are free to go there: By land, air, or sea. [applause, cheers] You should preserve Egypt and protect its security as you preserve and protect Libyan security. You are free to trade with Egypt; you are free to live in Egypt; you are free to reside in Egypt; you are free to own houses and land in Egypt. Our brothers in Egypt can enter Libya freely by land, air, and sea; they have the right to reside here; they have the right to own property; the right to work; and the right to participate in the people's committees and the people's conferences in Libya. [applause] It is enough to say that the secretary of the General People's Committee for Light Industries in Libya is an Egyptian who used to be a minister in an Egyptian government—a matter which indicates that we do differentiate between Egyptian and Libyan. [applause]

This is not all: Any Egyptian or Arab has the right to participate in the political authority in Libya. As for Tunisia, the same thing applies. The borders have been removed; you can go to Tunisia as you go to the Libyan market. There are some who go to Tunisia in the morning and return in the evening. This did not exist before. Look at the results! Look at the positive results of our confrontation with the United States! Who won and who lost? The United States lost. [applause]

Even Chad—when its government (?attacked) us, our tanks entered Ndjamena—during the Reagan era. [sentence as heard] The conflict in Chad which they concocted finally led to Frolinat ruling in Chad. We do not worry whether Frolinat has split into two or three or four groups; we are not interested in that. The important thing is that the Frolinat with which Libya struck an alliance was the one which reached power in Chad. As

for the misunderstanding, this may occur with any party or faction. It is thanks to Libya that in the end Frolinat reached power. It is now in power and ruling Ndjamena; this is enough for us. If it divided into factions, this concerns the Chadian people themselves.

But in light of the unity situation—the effort to forge unity—I have found that President Husni Mubarak believes in unity more than any other Arab, especially unity between Libya and Egypt. [applause] But brothers, in the shadow of this Arab unity we would like to say to the United States—the United States of yesterday, today, and tomorrow—that Arab unity is a fact. All U.S. attempts to isolate unionist Libya, to halt the unionist tide, have failed. The wind of unity is blowing from the ocean to the Gulf.

I have yet to meet a responsible Arab who would stand against Arab unity. They all insist on unity.

We now present the charter of the Arab League to be revised so as to realize the Arab federation—a federal state. The summit conferences will be turned into a presidential council; the ministries and secretariats in question would be turned into specialized councils. The Arab League would be turned into a permanent secretariat of the Arab federation, and the secretary of the Arab League would become a permanent secretary of this federation.

It was agreed to study this draft project at the Casablanca summit conference. The secretary of the Arab League will now develop this situation so that it can be turned into an Arab federation. He will visit Arab states during the next [illegible] months. This is a dream which is getting closer to becoming a reality. It is a dream that the Arabs talk about a federation and unity as a necessity. These are all gains for the revolution. They are gains for the masses which are yearning for Arab unity. These are your slogans which you have been raising for the past 20 years. These are gains for the masses.

Today, some Arab states have pledged to work to promote Libyan foreign policy with states which experience tension with Libya. This never used to exist. Reaganite America did not want this. It wanted Arab states to conspire against Libya.

All Arab states at the summit conference told me that if any tension exists between Libya and a foreign state, the Arab state which has good relations with that foreign state will work for improving relations between Libya and the foreign state. In this regard, we must mention Algeria, in particular President Chadli Bendjedid personally brothers. [applause] Reaganite America did not want this. It used to put pressure on Algeria to do the opposite. But Bendjedid played a role in the service of Libya's foreign policy to improve relations and remove the tensions between a group of foreign states and Libya. The Libyan people must know this publicly. However, this will be raised at the popular congresses via their secretariats and the secretariat of the General People's Congress concerning the role of Algeria in removing tension and repairing the bridges which collapsed between Libya and a number of foreign powers.

Egypt, Jordan, and a number of other Arab states have today pledged to work for improving and clarifying the real image of Libya, which Zionism and Reaganite imperialism tried to distort. Actually, a number of states were astonished when the real picture of Libya and the lawful demands of Libya were presented to them. These states used to say that the picture which was presented was completely different.

America, in its new era, is laughing at all the excuses which Reaganite America used to make concerning the animosity with Libya and things which had incorrectly been attributed to Libya. Libya actually has a stand and it will continue to stand forever against imperialism and Zionism, and for the liberation movements, the triumph of freedom, people's authority, and socialism. These are issues from which we will not retreat. America knows this.

Reagan's United States used to make ridiculous excuses in order to wage aggression against Libya. It said: There is a group being sent by Al-Qadhdhafi to assassinate Reagan; a state of emergency was declared in the United States. It now turns out this was a lie; this did not exist. Al-Qadhdhafi did not send a group to assassinate Reagan; but he did define his position on imperialism. I would not send a group to assassinate Reagan. Even if Reagan dies—or 100 others die—imperialism will be imperialism to the end. This is not our way of doing things.

It was claimed that Libyans had set out to assassinate a U.S. ambassador. This was a lie. A state of emergency was declared; Libya was threatened. They claimed that Libya was invading Sudan and aircaft carriers were put into action. They said Libya intended to topple Numayri, but Numayri was toppled by the Sudanese people in alliance with the Libyan people. [applause] It was not a plot; there were no aircraft. [applause] Reports were given to them that kept them awake all night claiming: Al-Qadhdhafi's agents have entered New York. A state of emergency was declared and they did not sleep. But this was not true. Al-Qadhdhafi has no agents. He has supporters, free men, and noblemen; not agents. Agents are used by the United States and Zionism. I do not use agents. I do not deal with agents. I deal with revolutionaries and noblemen: in Latin America, Asia, the United States itself, Africa, the Arab homeland, and Europe. I deal with the masses and the dynamic forces of the masses, not agents.

The United States was living in terror and the book that revealed this—"The Secret War of the CIA"—will explain to you the terror experienced by Reagan's United States out of fear of you, the Libyans. The United States lived in a state of alert for fear of Libya for 8 years, so that Libya had become... [Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] Some Arab rulers told me at the sumit: The

United States has told us: this Libya. They said: It was not planet Mars, it was not the moon; it was bewildering, they said, to see the United States terrified of Libya and thinking that Libya was a danger. They [the Arab leaders] said: God Almighty, what is this? Do you fear the power of the Soviet Union? They said: No. [applause] We told them: Is it possible that Libya is dangerous to this extent? They [the United States] said: Yes, it is dangerous. They told Egypt: Attack Libya quicky. But it said: We are not convinced that there is a danger to us from Libya. They told it: Allow us to attack it. Egypt said: No, we cannot allow you to attack an Arab country from here. This is unreasonable. For this reason, they had to travel 4,000 miles to attack our homes. They intended to attack from Egypt in April 1986. They told Egypt: Either you attack or we attack. Naturally, Egypt did not announce this at the Arab summit. It announced it before we met. It announced it officially. It announced in its media that it was asked several times to attack Libya, that the United States asked to be allowed to attack Libya, but Egypt had refused. Egypt refused this.

But brothers, even if the Arab countries stoop before the storm, to let the storm pass, their objective will remain the same: Liberation and unity so that this nation may occupy its suitable place among nations and on earth. Despite everything brothers, and I say this to avoid misunderstanding, Libya will remain. There is now an agreement with Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Jordan, all the Arab countries. There are no more official, political, or media-related problems betwen Libya and the Arab countries. There is only brotherhood, solidarity, and complete unity of ranks. [applause]

However, O brothers, Libya will continue to be a hawk among doves. If the others agree to play the roles of the dove. If the others agree to play the roles of the dove, the dove of peace, we do not object to achieving peace through them. However, Libya will continue to play the role of the hawk even if it is the only hawk. [chants]

O brothers, we stand with pride and firm feet in the heart of Wheelus Base, which is the base of martyr M'itiqah, the child martyr who was killed by the Americans. We are here today to celebrate the liberation of our land and to salute our bravery when we confronted this superpower's bases. It did not intimidate us and it did not change our determination to carry out a revolution. We besieged it and forced it to evacuate. At the same time, O brothers, we celebrate our victory over U.S. arrogance; [we celebrate] our historic confrontation, which we wrote with blood, wrote with bravery, wrote with faith. O brothers, we celebrate our victory over arrogance and the attempt to impose control and hegemony over our land and over our spirits. Our voices were louder than the roar of their fleets. Our hearts were stronger than their cowardly hearts. And here is our land: Free.

In conclusion, O brothers, we declare that the M'itiqah Air Base will be turned into an international civilian airport as of today, so that the name of the martyred girl M'itiqah, the martyr of the U.S. aggression and the U.S. occupation, will be written on all maps of the world. All airlines of the world and civilian airplanes will be obliged to mention daily the name of M'itiqah.

We will immortalize this girl who was killed by the Americans. Thus the whole world will know who M'itiqah was. They will know that she was a small girl who was playing before her house when an American aircraft crashed and killed her. It was all forgotten; Libya did not mourn and nobody spoke about M'itiqah. Neither the royal authority, nor the deputies, the ministers, nor the ambassadors of the royal regime did anything about this tragedy, this calamity, for this martyred girl. However, we never forget our revenge, regardless of the passage of time. The day will come when we demand revenge from Italy and from Turkey which handed us over to Italy. We will never forget M'itiqah. We will immortalize M'itiqah. We will never forget any martyred child. This nation can forgive but never forget.

As from now this military airbase will be transformed into a civil international airport. The struggle continues. [chants, applause]

Sudan

Government, SPLA Issue Joint Communique

NC1206140089 Paris AFP in English 1330 GMT 12 Jun 89

[By Seyoum Ayele]

[Text] Addis Ababa, June 12 (AFP)—The Sudanese Government and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have set September 18 as the date for the convening of a national constitutional conference, both sides said in a joint communique released here Monday [12 June].

The move is the first real breakthrough in peace talks since the Sudanese peace initiative was signed here November 10.

The conference, in which the rebels will take part, is seen as the ultimate forum at which Sudan's political future will be decided. No venue was suggested.

The peace talks had been in progress here since Saturday, led on the Sudanese side by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn and on the rebel side by Lam Akol Ajawin, an alternate member of the SPLA High Command.

The two sides welcomed last week's abrogation of a joint defence pact between Sudan and Egypt as "positive".

The SPLA differed with the government delegation on the steps taken so far by Khartoum to freeze the "hudud," or Islamic punishments, insisting that the freeze must become law through an act of parliament.

The government side contended that the shari'a law had been totally frozen since the Khartoum government and the constituent assembly endorsed the peace accord in March.

The two sides scheduled follow-up negotiations on further implementation of the agreement in the Ethiopian capital from July 4.

Implementation of the main provisions of the November 10 agreement must satisfy both sides beforehand for the national constitutional conference to take place as scheduled, they agreed.

The agreement calls for the lifting of the state of emergency in Sudan, a cease-fire, the freezing of Islamic shari'a laws, and the abrogation of Sudan's military pacts with Egypt and Libya ahead of the all-embracing meeting.

A difference of interpretation appeared to remain between the government and rebels over Khartoum's military pact with Libya.

The pact was signed in 1985 by the government of General 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar-al-Dhahab who overthrew former president Ja'far Numayri.

At the time, Gen. 'Abd-al-Rahman stressed it was "not a military pact or treaty" but a "memorandum of understanding" that mainly pledged Libya to provide Sudan with military equipment.

Mr. Al-Husayn said Monday that the military protocol with Libya could be cancelled without legal recourse because it had been signed in 1985 by the transitional government, without parliament passing it into law.

A civilian government under Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was not in place until April the following year.

Mr. Al-Husayn said the pact with Egypt was different as it had been approved by the parliaments of both countries.

However, the rebels want to ascertain whether legal and international procedures have been fulfilled before accepting cancellation of the Sudan-Libya pact at face value.

At a press conference, the foreign minister and Commander Lam also differed over how they interpreted application of Islamic punishments.

The SPLA side said executions and punishments had not been suspended since they were imposed by ex-President Numayri in 1983 and an "army" of prisoners still remained in jail facing trial.

They must be lifted now as "justice delayed is justice denied," Commander Lam said.

On the contrary, Mr. Al-Husayn said, it was for the national constitutional conference to scrap the shari'a laws, not the present parliament.

Rebels Air Communique

EA1206171089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Following 2 days of candid discussions in Addis Ababa, the delegations of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM/SPLA] and the Ministerial Peace Committee concluded their meetings at Ghion Hotel this morning, with a brief news conference. The text of the joint statement put out by both sides was read out in both Arabic and English, and subsequently distributed to press men, who asked several questions that were answered by the two heads of delegations, Commander Dr Lam Akol Ajawin and Mr Ahmad al-Husayn. The following is the text of the joint statement issued by the two sides, at the close of their talks yesterday. It reads:

Joint statement by delegations of SPLM/SPLA and the Ministerial Peace Committee, Addis Ababa, 11 June 1989. The two delegations of the SPLM/SPLA and the Ministerial Peace Committee held joint meetings in the period between 10 and 11 June 1989 in Addis Ababa.

A spirit of seriousness and frankness prevailed during these meetings, which were devoted to the discussion of the procedures for implementation of the Sudanese peace initiative. The meeting arrived at the following:

A. The two delegations agreed that the steps taken by the governments of Sudan and Egypt for abrogation of the joint defense pact by mutual consent are positive and that what remains is its ratification by the constituent assembly.

In regard to the Sudanese-Libyan protocol, points of view diverge. The ministerial peace committee considers the steps taken by the Council of Ministers as satisfying the purposes of this provision, whereas the SPLM/SPLA delegation believes otherwise. Both sides agreed to resolve this difference in their forthcoming meeting.

B. In regard to the provision relating to the freezing of the hudud [Islamic legal punishments], the delegation of the Ministerial Peace Committee considers the steps taken as satisfying the purposes of this provision, whereas the SPLM/SPLA delegation has underlined the necessity of an act by the assembly to freeze the hudud.

C. Both sides agreed to hold a meeting in Addis Ababa on 4 July 1989 to follow up the implementation of the Sudanese peace initiative.

D. Both sides fixed 18 September 1989 as the date of convening the national constitutional conference to be preceded by satisfaction on both sides that the provisions of the Sudanese peace initiative have been implemented.

E. The ministerial peace committee and the SPLM/SPLA delegations embark on this endeavor, meanwhile, calling upon all political forces to continue working for the realization of the agreed-upon schedule and the completion of all the steps leading to the national constitutional conference, the date of which has been selected in the light of the adequate period of time required to prepare for it.

Issued in Addis Ababa, 11 June 1989

Peace Talks End

EA1206133289 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0930 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] The peace talks between the Sudanese Liberation Movement [SPLM] and the Sudanese Government's Ministerial Peace Committee have ended in Addis Ababa. The two sides decided that Sudan's national constitutional conference will be held on 18 September 1989. During their 2 days of talks the two sides also decided to meet in Addis Ababa in 3 weeks to assess the implementation of the agreements reached. During their talks, the Sudanese Ministerial Peace Committee and the (?SPLM/Sudanese People's Liberation Army) agreed on the termination of the defense pact the Sudanese Government concluded with Egypt. The chairman of the Ministerial Peace Committee said that some steps had been taken to [words indistinct] which had [words indistinct] the two sides.

The agenda agreed on by the two sides will be submitted to the Sudanese parliament for approval. The two sides called on political organizations and trade unions in the country to help make a success of Sudan's national constitutional conference.

Kuwait

Committee Unveils 3-Year Plan Against AIDS

JN1106152889 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 8-9 Jun 89 p 6

[Text] According to a Ministry of Public Health release a total of 25 AIDS cases were reported in Kuwait from 1984 to 1988. Five involved Kuwaiti citizens and the rest were to varying nationalities. [sentence as published]

The release, published by the Anti-AIDS National Committee, unveils a medium-term anti-AIDS plan to be implemented by Kuwait in co-operation with the World Health Organisation. The plan involves a number of awareness programmes intended to educate the public about this disease, ways of its transmissibility, preventive measures and other important information to update existing public knowledge about this lethal disease.

The plan also involves the development of existing anti-AIDS measures, enforced in Kuwait. The plan is to be implemented over a three-year period, and funded by the Ministry of Public Health.

Oman

French Envoy on Qabus Visit to Paris, Peace Role

PM3005111089 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 21 May 89 p 8

[Interview with French Ambassador to Oman Charles Jeantelot by 'Ali Ibn-'Abdallah al-Harithi in Muscat; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Harithi] Omani-French relations are cordial and proceeding steadily toward further development and expansion. His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id's visit to Paris in a few days' time is designed to strengthen these relations. How does France view his majesty's coming visit and the results expected from it?

[Jeantelot] Undoubtedly, the Omani-French friendship is deep-seated in our hearts, but we are trying to translate it into joint actions to serve both countries' interests, which include the political field, especially in the current circumstances in which His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id's visit to France takes place. We term the visit in Paris a "state visit," that is, an official meeting held at the highest level between officials of the two countries. The meeting will be the first opportunity in 2 centuries for official talks at such a high level. [passage omitted]

[Al-Harithi] What about French-Iranian relations and the efforts to normalize them?

[Jeantelot] When we tried in April 1986 to normalize our relations with Iran, we openly told the Iranians, the Iraqis, and all the states of the region that our policy toward the Arab world would not change. We keep our promises and maintain our policy. The normalization, signs of which emerged in April 1986, was followed by a resumption of our diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.

[Al-Harithi] How does France view present conditions in the occupied Arab territories, especially in view of the escalating Israeli repressive measures against the intifadah [uprising] and in view of the numerous moves made vis-a-vis the Middle East problem? How does France view the peace process and the means used in it?

[Jeantelot] The French Government has expressed its deep concern about the violent clashes against the intifadah in the occupied Arab territories, especially in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank of the River Jordan. And at the height of events, France stresses once again the need to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East and emphasizes its backing for the plan to convene an international conference comprising all the sides concerned and in which representatives of the Palestinian people can participate. France is playing an important role in the European accord on this issue. [passage omitted]

[Al-Harithi] The Israeli Council of Ministers recently adopted Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories. How does France view those elections, especially in the light of 'Arafat's recent visit to Paris and Israel's position on it?

[Jeantelot] With regard to what Shamir said about holding elections in the occupied Arab territories, which Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] agreed to provided that they are held under democratic conditions—he is in the right, as the elections must be conducted under purely democratic conditions—so far France has not taken a particular position on that call. It makes its peace efforts through the UN Security Council and through continuous consultations with the Arab states with which it is bound by strong, historic relations, whether political, economic, or cultural. France is also playing a good role in preparing for the international peace conference, and that role will develop further after Abu-'Ammar's Paris visit, which has opened further scope for political cooperation with the PLO.

[Al-Harithi] France has expressed strong concern about what is happening in Lebanon, especially since, as has been pointed out, France and Lebanon have been bound by special relations for many years. What stage has been reached in the French efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis?

[Jeantelot] Recent French efforts have rallied international support for a peaceful solution in Lebanon, especially since Lebanese events have recently taken a dangerous course, particularly in Beirut itself, which has witnessed increasing fighting and where people have long lived under artillery fire.

I would say that through its recent moves France aimed to draw the world's attention to that difficult crisis and the need for cooperation to resolve it, especially through the Arab states, which are more concerned about the problem than anybody else. They must play the effective role in resolving that problem. This, because Lebanon is an Arab state and belongs to the Arab League. But obviously all the world's states must work for the sake of Lebanon's unity and sovereignty.

With regard to the rumors of a French bias toward the Christians, I say that that is totally groundless. This, because France has dealt equitably with everyone—Christians, Muslims, Druzes, or other sects. The objective was to find a final and peaceful solution to that country's crisis so that it will remain united. But if a group of Christians visits France from time to time, it is to work for personal interests, and Paris has not worked, and will not work, for the interests of one party against another.

In my view, the solution to the Lebanese crisis necessarily requires internal reforms as well as joint Arab action via the Arab League with support from the United Nations and the other international organizations. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Paper Says U.S. Veto Harms Credibility in Mideast

JN1206161189 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
11 Jun 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The U.S. Veto and Israeli Barbarism"]

[Text] A new U.S. veto in a series of defending Israeli barbarism... Large-scale Arab and international indignation over the U.S. veto and Israeli barbarism. There is nothing to justify this veto except that it is a defense of Zionist terrorism in all its shades and ways. The Security Council tried to avoid this veto, but the U.S. demands were too numerous to meet. There is no way that one can equalize between the victim and the butcher. This is what the United States was asking for when defending the Zionist entity. But the international community rejected this demand.

Despite the fact that this veto has annuled a new resolution to condemn the Israeli entity, it is nevertheless a great victory for the Palestinian people. The international community refused to submit to the U.S. demands and insisted on having the resolution as is. The United States' and Israel's isolation in the Security Council has become clear. The United States resorted to the veto to protect Israeli barbarism and demagoguery. In this lies the victory of Palestine and its cause, despite losing the resolution of condemnation.

The Arab people cannot stomach this extremely strange veto. They wonder about the credibility of the U.S. position in the Middle East. Is it serious in solving the Palestinian problem or tragedy? Or is its motive in solving the Middle East crisis protecting the Zionist entity?

The UN Security Council members tried as much as they could to abandon the points in the resolution against which the United States exercised its veto power. With every concession, the United States would ask for another until it asked for equality between the Israeli arms arsenal and the defenseless people without any weapons. That is when the whole world rejected this unjust equality; and then there was the veto.

We as Arabs are not surprised by this veto because it is not the first, nor will it be the last in the series of the Arab-Israeli conflicts. What we are surprised by are the U.S. positions which demand giving the Palestinian people their legitimate "political" and constant rights. This is the ultimate of double standards. Is it not a Palestinian right that they be given humanitarian treatment?

Where are the Palestinian human rights, and where is the U.S. defense of human rights at a time when it is ignoring the Palestinian person's rights to lead a dignified life in his occupied homeland?

Israel is killing children. Where are these children's rights? If the Palestinian youths and men are resisting the occupation, which is their right, what fault does the Palestinian infant have in being killed by the occupation's bullets?

Israeli terrorism and U.S. blind fanaticism will push the Palestinian people to increase their resistance of the occupation. The price of independence is always high. The Palestinians have offered a great deal and are prepared to sacrifice a great deal more to regain their independence and liberty regardless of the price.

This U.S. veto has only harmed U.S. credibility and put the Israeli entity and the United States in an isolated position. At the same time, it has warned the Palestinians of the dangers of depending on the United States to retrieve their rights. This will push them to resist even further and work toward retrieving their rights and complete independence.

United Arab Emirates

Editorial on U.S. Aid to Israel Against 'Uprising'

JN1106184189 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
8 Jun 89 p 1

[Editorial: "The Intifadah Is Our Best Bet"]

[Text] It is not strange that the U.S. intelligence report published yesterday that warned "Israel" that the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories will escalate coincides with this intifadah entering its 19th month stronger and more determined to achieve its objectives.

Within the framework of the cohesive strategic cooperation between the United States and "Israel," it is natural and an axiom that U.S. intelligence places all the available information at the service of Israeli intelligence and forces for their benefit in confronting the intifadah. This will not be a source of astonishment to the Arabs so long as the two sides agree on the means and the objective.

However, the U.S. warning to the Israelis has another face toward which we should be vigilent. This is because when a certain side warns another side against an imminent danger or an undesirable surprise, this means that both sides are in agreement regarding the objective. We do not need to get into the whirlpool of searching for proof, because there are actions that indicate the intentions behind them. This not only makes the U.S. action suspect, but it should also be classified as an action that is hostile to the Arabs. The intifadah is a legitimate national and pan-Arab action for the Palestinian people as an available means and alternative to restore their usurped rights. The United States, in light of its deep-rooted experience of struggle for freedom and independence from the British crown 2 centuries ago, knows better about the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle.

We do not here want to wish that the United States had not made such a warning and advice to its strategic ally, because this is useless, especially as the experience of Arab dealing with Washington throughout decades has proved this. However, we had hoped that the United States had not used two faces in order to avoid dealing a new blow to its credibility as a neutral mediator that seeks to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful means. However, on the contrary, it has made another mistake that deepens doubts concerning its objectivity and poses a thousand questions on its seriousness and intentions regarding its dialogue with the PLO.

At any rate, what U.S. intelligence has given to Israel constitutes another proof that the intifadah will continue to be the best inexhaustible bet of the Arabs and Palestinians.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets With Yasir 'Arafat 11 Jun
JN1106125089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jun (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, met with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, here today.

During the meeting, they discussed the current developments in the Palestinian arena in light of the Zionist occupation authorities' repressive campaigns against the Palestinian citizens inside the occupied territories.

'Arafat and 'Aziz also discussed developments in the Palestine question in the Arab and international arenas as well as the regional and international situation.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the deputy official in charge of the liberation movements office, the head of the Arab department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

Arab Committee Delegation Departs for Jeddah
JN1006200789 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] The tripartite Arab committee delegation comprising Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh left Baghdad for Jeddah this evening at the end of their several-hour visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Algerian foreign minister said the committee sensed that President Saddam Husayn and the brothers in fraternal Iraq were responsive and quite ready to render the committee's mission a success. He added: We are authorized by our three leaders to search for every good and decisive will to deal with a dear subject, Lebanon.

The committee members were seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; the head of the Arab department at the Foreign Ministry; and the Saudi, Moroccan, and Algerian ambassadors in Baghdad.

Hammadi Confers With Soviet Economic Delegation
JN1206114289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1111 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jun (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, met here today with Konstantin Katushev, Soviet foreign economic relations minister, and the accompanying delegation. Hammadi reviewed the march of prosperity in Iraq in the economic, industrial, trade, and development fields. He also praised the developing relations between the two friendly countries.

The guest delegation expressed a desire to develop relations between the two friendly countries.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif and the Iraqi ambassador in Baghdad.

AL-THAWRAH on Syrian Moves in Lebanon
JN1206080889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jun (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has called on the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon to block Syria's maneuvers and attempts to foil its work. These maneuvers and attempts are represented by distributing the roles of escalation among the parties it manipulates to besiege and abort the committee's work. In today's editorial, AL-THAWRAH says that the working committee stemming from the tripartite committee will face Syrian maneuvers. At the same time, the forces allied with that regime, including Iranian and possibly Zionist forces, will explode the situation anew and escalate the bombardment. The paper says that such a method is not new in the Lebanese arena as it was implemented in the various stages of the Lebanese crisis.

AL-THAWRAH stresses the need to work in order to remove the Syrian tutelage over Lebanon and to give the Lebanese an opportunity to reach an understanding and achieve national reconciliation. The Lebanese must also be given time to work in order to achieve Syrian withdrawal from all Lebanese territory.

AL-THAWRAH says the committee should begin where the six-man committee ended. The committee must remain in session to achieve a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese crisis. The committee also should reject positions having personal objectives. There must be retribution for the parties that obstruct the executive steps because Lebanon's Arabism and sovereignty cannot be fragmented.

AL-THAWRAH says that it is necessary to foil the Syrian pretexts, postpone some priorities, and take into consideration the time limit to bring about a comprehensive solution. It is also necessary to draw up a timetable for the withdrawal of the Syrian invaders.

Daily on Syrian Use of Iranians in Lebanon
JN1306101889 Baghdad INA in English 0918 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 13, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad today warned that Syria endeavours to utilize the Iranian military presence in Lebanon as a pressing [as received] card for confronting the mission of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon.

A daily commentary here today said that Syria also attempts to make the Iranian presence in Lebanon into a card of blackmail for bargaining without taking into consideration the interests of the Arab nation, pan-Arab security and freedom and sovereignty of Lebanon.

The daily added that the Syrian regime tries to strengthen the Iranian existence to the limit of turning it into an Arab problem so that it would later perform a role in return for a price of negotiating with Iran and convincing it to withdraw from Lebanon.

CSSR Official Comments on POW's, Conference

JN1006180389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1548 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jun (INA)—Dr Jan Janik, deputy speaker of the CSSR National Assembly, has expressed his deep satisfaction with the fruitful and constructive results of his talks with senior officials in Iraq on parliamentary and party areas, as well as ways to promote bilateral cooperation in the economic and scientific areas.

In a statement to INA, he said: We support every international effort to implement the provisions of Resolution 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran dispute and for achieving a comprehensive and just peace.

The CSSR official added: Starting an overall exchange of prisoners of war between Iraq and Iran has become necessary under the resolution and in line with President Saddam Husayn's call for a comprehensive exchange of the prisoners of war regardless of the possible result of the current negotiations between the two countries.

The CSSR parliamentarian also explained that the noble humanitarian motives and the principles of international policy in this regard constitute an important factor for such an exchange and that any maneuvering or any rejection of that exchange will conflict with human aspirations.

Jan Janik expressed his support for the idea of convening a UN-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by all sides, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. He then praised the comprehensive progress achieved in all areas in Iraq.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1106105389 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 11, INA—Dr. Jan Janik, vice chairman of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly and his accompanying delegation today left here concluding a week-long visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the Czechoslovak delegation held talks with the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly on promoting parliamentary relations between the two countries. Dr. Janik's talks with other senior Iraqi officials tackled means of developing bilateral relations.

In a statement to INA here yesterday, Dr. Janik expressed deep satisfaction over the constructive and fruitful results of his talks with Iraqi officials especially in the party and parliamentary fields. He also praised the results of his talks on promoting bilateral cooperation in scientific and economic fields.

Dr Janik also expressed his country's backing of the international efforts for implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 598 on ending the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and attaining just and comprehensive peace.

Further Reportage on Butrus Ghali's Visit

Meets With Palestinians

NC1206124589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who is currently on a visit to Israel, met today with a number of Palestinian figures from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The talks during the meeting centered on current developments in the region and both Egyptian-Israeli and Egyptian-Palestinian relations, with a view to finding a way to solve the Palestinian issue.

Dr Ghali underlined Egypt's support for peace and for the Palestinians' legitimate rights. The Palestinian figures who attended the meeting hoped that Egypt would serve as a bridge between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Among the Palestinian figures present at the meeting were Hikmat al-Masri; Fayiz Abu-Rahmah; As'ad al-Saftawi; Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj; Mahmud Abu-al-Zalaf, chief editor of the AL-QUDS newspaper; and 'Isam al-'Anani, chief editor of AL-NAHAR newspaper.

Dr Butrus Ghali also met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to convey an oral message to him from President Husni Mubarak.

Palestinians on Meeting

JN1206120489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0930 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Dispatch by Ibrahim Shahid from Tel Aviv from the "With the Midday Events" program]

[Text] The Egyptian minister's meeting with approximately 30 Palestinian figures from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at the residence of Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni lasted about 2 hours. The figures include Hikmat al-Masri, 'Isam al-'Anani, Mansur al-Shawwa, Fayiz al-Qawasimi, Ilyas Frayj, Ibrahim Qara'in, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Shaykh As'ad al-Saftawi, Jack Khazamah, Mahmud Abu-al-Zuluf, and Dr Zakariyah al-Agha, as well as the editors in chief of Arab papers in East Jerusalem, except for Hannah Sinyurah, editor in chief of AL-FAJR paper, who did not attend. Also among the invitees who did not attend were Sa'id Kan'an of Nabulus, Dr Sari Nusaybah, and Faysal al-Husayni, who met with the Egyptian minister at King David Hotel yesterday.

After this meeting with the Egyptian minister, a number of personalities spoke to us. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj:

[Begin Frayj recording] It was a good meeting. Viewpoints were exchanged. We listened to his viewpoints. He is directly in the picture of events. He listened to our views. He will meet with the prime minister an hour from now. There is a long way to go. The negotiations process normally takes a long time; it needs patience. However, moves and exchange of viewpoints revive hopes. [end recording]

That was Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. How did former Hebron Mayor Eng Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah find this meeting?

[Begin Al-Natshah recording] We found that Egypt, as usual, is very interested in boosting the peace process in the region and in urging the Israeli Government to show more flexibility. Egypt supports the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to choose their representatives. Egypt also supports the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the establishment of a Palestinian state. [end recording]

Shaykh Saftawi is with us. The press talked today about a plan you have submitted. Would you talk to us about it.

[Begin recording] [Al-Saftawi] I submitted the plan to the defense minister a month ago during a meeting with Gaza personalities at the Defense Ministry. The plan consists of two parts. The first criticizes the Israeli peace plan. The second part includes the basic principles that any Palestinian intiative can be based on.

[Shahid] Did you discuss some points [of the plan] with the Egyptian minister?

[Al-Saftawi] We did not discuss that. A general discussion was held on Egypt's role in the peace process. Egypt's role, as the minister affirmed, is important. He said he will convey ideas to President Mubarak and that Egypt will work as it always has done to bring viewpoints closer in order to achieve peace between the two peoples. [end recording]

That was Shaykh al-Saftawi from Gaza. Also from Gaza we asked Attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah how he views Egypt's role in the recent moves.

[Begin Abu-Rahmah recording] His excellency the minister said Egypt is a good mediator between Israel and the Palestinians. He also said that Egypt has almost daily contacts with the PLO and that it has a vanguard role in this regard to achieve a just peace in the Middle East. [end recording]

What does Attorney 'Isam al-'Anani, chief editor of the Jerusalem-based AL-NAHAR newspaper, have to say following this meeting?

[Begin recording] [Al-'Anani] The upshot is that the Egyptian minister has come on an active and forceful mediation mission. It seems that this mission carries with it the necessary leverage in view of the reconciliations that took place in the Casablanca summit, and Egypt's return to the Arab League, or the return of the Arab League to Egypt. This mediation will be between

the Palestinians on one side and Israel on the other, and also between the Arabs on one side and Israel on the other because Egypt has a unique position since it has relations with Israel and an embassy in Tel Aviv. Thus, it can play this role.

[Shahid] What message did he bring to you, and what matters do you want to convey to him?

[Al-'Anani] The message he brought with him is that Egypt will not abandon the Palestinian cause and that it views the Palestinian cause as being an Egyptian and an Arab cause. Second, the message, in addition to the fact that it contains good and sincere intentions, stresses that there is an intention to carry out a speedy move, given that the state of affairs can no longer tolerate further delay, or the step-by-step policy. The contents of this message were also conveyed to Shamir. He wants to speak about all this with the prime minister and his foreign minister this afternoon. [end recording]

Mansur al-Shawwa, president of the Gaza Welfare Society, is waiting for the results.

[Begin recording] [Al-Shawwa] Minister Butrus Ghali is a great man, and a man who has great ideas. He wanted to listen to our viewpoint and how we envisage the state of affairs. He is very optimistic.

[Shahid] How do you view the steps he is undertaking?

[Al-Shawwa] We still do not know what steps he will take. He will submit something from President Mubarak to Shamir. He will hold talks with Shamir and Arens today. We are waiting for the results. [end recording]

Mr Sa'id Kan'an, we are phoning you in Nabulus. You were supposed to meet with Dr Butrus Ghali today?

[Begin recording] [Kan'an] I was invited to meet with Dr Butrus Ghali, but unfortunately, I came down with acute flu yesterday. I tried to go, but my physician, Dr 'Imad al-Sayfi, told me it was impossible for me to leave my bed. I am sorry I could not be there to meet Dr Ghali.

[Shahid] Then we cannot say that this is a diplomatic illness?

[Kan'an] Absolutely not, this is not a political illness. I am really ill.

[Shahid] We ask you this question because MA'ARIV said today that there were pressures on the Palestinian figures to boycott the meeting with Dr Ghali.

[Kan'an] This is true. We received phone calls asking us not to meet with Dr Ghali. However, this was not why I did not go to the meeting. I did not go because I have the flu.

[Shahid] As far as you know, are there any figures who gave in to these pressures?

[Kan'an] No, I am the only one who did not go. Brothers Hikmat al-Masri, Dr Hakam Abu Ghazalah, and [name indistinct] Sa'd went to the meeting.

[Shahid] I mean Faysal al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, and Hannah Sinyurah.

[Kan'an, interrupting] Faysal al-Husayni has his own reasons. They have personal reasons. You must ask them as they are in Jerusalem, because he [not further identified] met with Dr Butrus Ghali for reasons of his own.

[Shahid] Well, we understand that you are ill. We wish you a speedy recovery, and thank you. [end recording]

Meets With Shamir

TA1206115189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Egyptian Minister Butrus Ghali says that Cairo is ready to mediate between Israel and the Palestinians. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that in his meeting with Prime Minister Shamir, Ghali said that Egypt sees some positive aspects in Israel's peace initiative, but has reservations about several components of the initiative.

The prime minister emphasized to the Egyptian minister the importance of the ties between Jerusalem and Cairo. Mr Shamir said that Israel attaches great significance to Egypt's support for the political plan.

Ghali handed Mr Shamir a message from President Mubarak in which Mubarak pointed out that Cairo will not alter its policy upon its return to the Arab League and will not back out of the peace agreement. Mubarak stressed that in the Casablanca summit resolutions, the Arab countries concurred with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, a move which Egypt sees as an important breakthrough toward advancing the political process.

Today President Mubarak will convene with Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo. This was reported by the official news agency in Cairo. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT on 12 June adds that upon leaving the meeting with Shamir, Minister Ghali told reporters waiting outside that the talks with Shamir were "very positive." He expressed his hope "that they will improve relations between the two countries."]

Confers With Arens, Herzog

TA1206154589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Israel has rejected Egypt's offer to mediate between the PLO and Israel.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens made this statement following his meeting with Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, in Jerusalem. Minister

Arens believes that Egypt understands from our mutual past experience that the way to achieve an agreement is via direct negotiations, not through the assistance of middlemen.

Aharon Barne'a, our Arab affairs correspondent, reports that during the meeting with Minister Ghali, Foreign Minister Arens explained that the PLO cannot be a partner in the peace process while its members continue perpetrating violence. The foreign minister stressed the fact that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO.

The incident in the Gulf of Elat in which Elat resident Shlomo Yisra'eli was killed was also discussed in the meeting between the two men. Ghali and Arens agreed on the necessity of formulating acceptable accords on the issue of sailing regulations in the Gulf of Elat. Minister Arens pointed out that the talks with Minister Ghali were positive and that both Israel and Egypt have an interest in furthering the peace process.

President Herzog met Minister Ghali and renewed his invitation to President Mubarak to come and visit Jerusalem.

Minister Ghali has concluded his visit to Jerusalem and is about to return to Cairo.

Holds News Conference

NC1206180889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has announced that Egypt does not reject the Israeli plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories. He noted that Egypt finds positive elements in this plan which, however, also includes negative points which must be discussed.

In a news conference in Tel Aviv today, Dr Ghali asserted that the Palestinians with whom he met at the Egyptian ambassador's residence this morning rejected the Israeli plan and declared that there are three principles which they cannot relinquish, namely self-determination, unity between the Palestinians in the occupied territories and those abroad, and the principle that the intifadah [uprising] is a bloodless and peaceful revolt.

The minister of state for foreign affairs added that the Palestinians reemphasized that the PLO will be the party that will decide the stand of the Palestinians regarding the Israeli plan.

Editorial on Visit

TA1306135689 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Jun 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Butrus Ghali's Visit to Israel"]

[Text] The current visit to Israel by Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali and the talks he has held and will hold today with Israeli officials fall within the framework of the urgent Egyptian efforts to advance the peace process. This is the same process that is being impeded and prevented from being launched by the Israeli positions.

The Egyptian minister, who is carrying with him a clear and defined Arab stance regarding the peace process in the region, will try to convince Israel's leaders that the Arab peace option formulated at the Casablanca summit is the best option and has no alternative for seeking a comprehensive, lasting peace in the region, and that the Israeli leaders' continued rejection of this option is liable to push the region to the threshhold of tension and wars. The negative effects of this development will not be limited to the nations of the region and will endanger the foundations of international detente, which the two superpowers are trying to build by signing the nuclear arms control agreements and by cooling hotbeds of tension in the world.

The Egyptian minister has affirmed the existence of deep differences in the Egyptian and Israeli viewpoints about the means of a settlement, particularly with regard to the issue of elections. Egypt believes that the elections should be held within the framework of a plan that leads to the achievement of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. Moreover, elections cannot be free and democratic unless they are held under international supervision with PLO participation, and after Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Hence, not only does a wide gap exist between Egyptian demands and Israeli conditions, but there is a wide gap between Israeli conditions and Arab and international demands. Israel's leaders are still very far from the requirements of peace that qualify them to participate in the peace process.

In light of this enormous gap between the international peace requirements and Israeli conditions, it seems necessary to activate the supreme Arab committee headed by King Hassan II, established by the Casablanca summit, in order to act in the international arena and revive the peace efforts with the aim of convening the aspired international conference, which constitutes the best practical option for finding a durable and comprehensive solution to the region's crisis. Defining the Arab interpretation of the peace process is not less important than continuing to call for one and moving seriously in order to attract international support for this definition with the aim of encircling the U.S. and Israeli positions, which pursue a policy of procrastination and gaining time to halt the peace efforts.

11 Point Palestinian 'Peace Plan' Detailed

TA1206090989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jun 89 p 4

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The comprehensive peace plan of As'ad al-Saftawi, one of the prominent Gaza Strip leaders, will be submitted to Minister Butrus Ghali in his meeting with

notables from the territories scheduled for this morning. The document, which contains 11 clauses, was given to Minister Rabin on 16 May 1989. The document includes two important aspects: It stresses the status and central role of the residents of the territories in the political process, although the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole representative; for the first time, a plan for elections in the territories does not mention either the need for an Israeli withdrawal or for an agreement to hold them under international supervision only. The following are the details of the plan:

1. Our Palestinian nation has no choice but one—the choice of peace, particularly in the wake of the Palestine National Council resolution in Algiers last November.

2. Our nation will achieve self-determination through the establishment of an independent Palestinian state or through a confederative union with Jordan. The fulfillment of this ambition does not conflict with the desires of the Israeli people, because we strive for security, peace, and coexistence.

3. We perceive the Palestinian people as one inseparable entity, whether they reside in the homeland or outside.

4. The election of our people's leadership is the exclusive privilege of all the sons of our people in and outside the homeland; on this issue, we will accept neither auspices nor participation or assistance from anyone.

5. The fact that the PLO is our nation's sole legitimate representative does not invalidate our role in the territories. On the contrary, we are our nation's pioneers, just as we stand on the first confrontation line with the occupation; we are the bridge to peace.

6. As residents of the territories, we are willing to carry out any duty imposed on us by the PLO from the outside. We have therefore often asked Israel to revoke the orders forbidding residents of the territories to travel abroad and allow us to coordinate with the PLO in order to promote the peace process; all this, if Israel truly desires peace.

7. We agree to a phased solution, provided we are informed of the entire scenario of the peace process, so that the implementation of the stages is carried out in the framework of a definite timetable to which the PLO will have given its consent.

8. We do not preclude the possibility that the Palestinians in the territories will make the first steps as outlined by that scenario, provided it is approved by the PLO.

9. If the elections in the territories are a part of a comprehensive scenario, we do not reject them. All this on the condition that it be agreed that they are to be conducted under appropriate international supervision to guarantee that they are free and lawful elections.

10. If the Palestinians in the territories can carry out the first stages of the comprehensive peace plan and participate in the transitional period, the final determination of the relations between the State of Palestine or the Palestinian-Jordanian confederation and the State of Israel can be carried out by the PLO.

11. Peace will not be achieved by imposing the views of one side on the other, even if one of the sides is weak.

Al-Saftawi works as a Gaza school principal and is considered to be No 2 in the Strip's Fatah leadership, after Attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah. He is well known for his religious tendencies, and has served an administrative detention term for subversive hostile activity against Israel. His son, 'Imad al-Saftawi, is one of the Islamic Jihad men who escaped from the Gaza prison in November 1987. He has not been apprehended to this very date.

Arens Cited on Elections, Egypt's Role, PLO

TA1206125189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said that the residents of East Jerusalem are not included in the election plan for Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

During a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Minister Arens said, that it is an undeniable fact that the PLO has made significant political achievements over the past 2 years. Arens added that Israel would have been damaged had it not taken the initiative in furthering the peace process.

Minister Arens reported that during his talks with Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, he expressed his opinion that following Egypt's return to the Arab fold there is a chance Cairo could pull other Arab states toward peace with Israel. At the same time, however, there is a danger that these states could lure Egypt away from its peace treaty with Israel. Minister Arens said he hopes President Mubarak will adhere to the treaty.

At the session's conclusion Minister Arens told our correspondent Arye Golan that Israel will transfer a message to Egypt stating that Egypt has a key role to play in furthering the peace process but that Israel is not interested in any attempts at mediation between itself and the PLO. Arens said that Cairo can convince additional countries to join the peace process. Israel, nevertheless, has no desire to negotiate with the PLO, whether this be through the mediation of Egypt, the United States, or any other party.

AL-SHA'B: Baker, Qaddumi To Meet 'Soon'

TA1206114589 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Jun 89 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Washington—Informed sources here have reported that the U.S. Administration is seriously contemplating upgrading the level of dialogue with the PLO

in light of the outcome of the dialogue held 2 days ago in Tunis and in light of the results of the Casablanca summit.

The same sources added that a meeting may soon be held between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The sources did not clarify when or where this meeting will take place.

Arens on Senators' Letter, U.S.-PLO Dialogue
TA1106064189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Friedman] The Prime Minister's Office this morning described the senators' letter as a response to Secretary of State Baker's speech. Is Israel in a state of confrontation with the administration and secretary of state, and is it being forced to struggle to maintain its status with the assistance of Capitol Hill?

[Arens] No, we are not in a state of confrontation, but those who know the U.S. Administration know that it is not made up only of the White House, but that the Senate and House of Representatives form an integral part of the administration. Therefore, whoever is interested in cooperating with the United States and wants U.S. support cannot neglect the House of Representatives and Senate, and must make sure it has their support. The prime minister's initiative was responsible for getting us a great deal of support in the Senate and House of Representatives, and permitted us to greatly improve our standing.

[Friedman] If I am not mistaken, the previous time such a letter, which to a certain extent was opposed to the declared U.S. Administration's position, was drafted was when the administration spoke about a reappraisal in its relations with Israel.

[Arens] During Kissinger's term.

[Friedman] Yes. At that time a similar step was taken. Although fewer senators signed the letter, there was then also the feeling that the Senate was rescuing us from an administration whose policy was not so favorable to us. Is that comparison acceptable to you?

[Arens] You know that history does not repeat itself, and it is difficult to find situations which are totally analagous to what has just happened. I do not think there is room for comparison here, but, as I said before, it is very important for us to have very wide-ranging support. We have not had such support in recent months. There was an erosion in Israel's standing in U.S. public opinion and in Congress. Here is proof that the prime minister's initiative has brought about a significant improvement in our status. I believe that this must, in the final analysis, be reflected in the positions of the administration, the President, and the secretary of state, but we will have to wait and see.

[Friedman] I have a question about the technique involved in an event such as the senators' letter. It was reported that the Israeli Embassy in Washington was involved, at least at the technical level, in organizing the letter and the administrative work. Is there not something ethically wrong with that? Could somebody in the administration say: You should not be involved in such activities?

[Arens] There is nothing wrong about it. The Americans know even better than we that Congress is an integral part of the U.S. Administration, therefore it is legitimate, and perhaps a fact of life, that our embassy maintains very close ties with senators and congressmen, explaining our positions to them to try to convince them that our positions are just. The embassy did that and did it the best way it knew how.

[Friedman] How would you define the state of the dialogue between Jerusalem and the administration and the secretary of state on advancing the political process? Please concentrate on the problematic issues, if there are any, and I suppose there are.

[Arens] First of all, we know that allies do not agree on everything. The fact is that Israeli-U.S. relations are very good, but that does not mean we agree about everything. In Secretary of State Baker's recent speech it was clear to anyone who had not previously understood it, that there is no agreement on all issues. That does not mean we cannot achieve cooperation and coordination. We are doing everything we can to have our positions accepted, to convince the Americans that our positions are right. We have a certain advantage: We are on the spot, and it deals with our future and our very existence.

[Friedman] On the issue of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, Israel has many times reiterated its request to stop these contacts. We send them various findings and reports about the PLO's terrorist activities in Lebanon and other places. In the meantime, however, these contacts continue. Are there any signs that the United States will reconsider its policy on that issue?

[Arens] We are not making such a request because I do not think that it would be right to do it. We present the Americans with the facts, which are that Ambassador Pelletreau is conducting talks in Tunis with a terrorist, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbush, who is one of the leaders of the PLO wing which only a few days ago sent terrorists to infiltrate into northern Israel and take over one of our villages and kill people. That contradicts the U.S.

declared policy which is opposed to contacts with terrorists. I hope they will become convinced that it does not do any good, and in our view, certainly cannot help in advancing our peace initiative, because the PLO is the main obstacle to making progress for peace. They are carrying out a campaign of killings and terror against the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. You read about it daily. Therefore anything that improves their status and gives them a feeling of recognition and legitimacy cannot help peace.

[Friedman] But the Israeli message on the PLO issue has also not been accepted by the Senate, whose latest expression of support could not have been stronger. The senators do not refer to the PLO. Do they not agree with you on that?

[Arens] First of all, it is not mentioned in the letter that they do not agree with us. The letter simply does not refer to that Middle East issue. I suppose there are many in Congress who do not support the talks with the PLO, but as you know, Congress is wary about initiating a confrontation with the administration on any foreign policy issue.

[Friedman] Mr Arens, we shall conclude with some remarks about the visit by an Egyptian minister to Israel, which has not been a frequent event in recent years. Butrus Ghali arrives this morning. You will meet with him. How would you define the aims of these talks? Is there any political aim you will try to achieve in the talks with Ghali?

[Arens] First, we welcome his visit. It is not something that happens each day although we would like our relations with Egypt to be such that a visit by an Egyptian minister to us and a visit by an Israeli minister to Egypt would be routine. Mr Butrus Ghali arrives here, as far as we know, as President Mubarak's envoy with a message to the prime minister, and we will wait until we see the contents of the message. We will, of course, use the visit to discuss the prime minister's peace initiative and to coopt Egypt's support for our initiative.

[Friedman] The initiative for the visit is Egyptian, I understand.

[Arens] That is correct, but I believe that it is within the framework of the relatively close relations we have maintained with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and President Husni Mubarak over the past several months on bilateral relations and our peace initiative.

Likud Central Committee Meeting Set for 4 Jul

TA1206162289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] The Likud Central Committee meeting has been postponed for technical reasons and will now be convened on 4 July instead of 2 July as initially planned.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in a meeting with Central Committee members that the committee should not get embroiled in internal wrangling at this stage. He pointed out that eight Likud ministers support the plan, while only three oppose it, and asked: Should we give it all up because three people oppose it?

Minister Moshe Arens warned today that if the Central Committee rejects the initiative, the unity government will cease to function.

[Begin Arens recording] I think that if there were a negative resolution in the Central Committee, the outcome would be negative. The present government would not be able to function or to exist. [end recording]

Minister Ari'el Sharon, one of the chief opponents of the plan, is now meeting at his Jerusalem home with a group of Central Committee members who live in Judaea and Samaria.

Arens on Central Committee

TA1306113389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens chose to visit the settlement of Ma'ale Adummim today, approximately 2 and ½ weeks after the rioting and attacks on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] personnel which took place there. Arens said he feels the need to visit settlements in Judaea and Samaria, especially at times like these, when citizens are on the front line of fire.

Arens said he is convinced that the Likud Central Committee will endorse the prime minister's peace plan. Minister Arens implied that Prime Minister Shamir may resign if the Central Committee votes the plan down.

[Begin Arens recording, picked up in midsentence] ...and I assume there are many people in the world who hope that the Likud Central Committee will reject the peace initiative and that Shamir will cease to be the prime minister of Israel. There may be people in Israel who hold the same opinion. I am convinced, however, that most members of the Likud want Shamir to continue to serve as prime minister of Israel, promote the initiative, and further strengthen the Likud in the Israeli political scene. That is the reason I believe they will support the peace initiative. This is Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's initiative, and it is difficult to imagine how this initiative can be furthered without Yitzhaq Shamir as prime minister. [end recording] [passage omitted]

In the course of a discussion with junior high school students, Minister Arens stated that elections would only be held after quiet has been restored in Judaea and Samaria. Arens also addressed the issue of settlement expansion during the autonomy stage.

[Begin Arens recording] We have not yet begun to negotiate this matter. I do not believe that the Israeli Government can, or has the right, to relinquish the right of Jews to settle freely. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 13 June provides additional quotes from Arens' remarks in Ma'ale Adummim, saying: "If extremists are elected in the territories who do not understand our interests, we will meet once or twice and that will be the end of it. We have a traditional position which says we are prepared to enter negotiations without preconditions. When we get to the negotiating table we will present our positions, and the other side will be free to raise its positions, but if the gap is too wide we will not reach an agreement and the contacts will come to an end."]

Rabin Departs for Paris Air Show 11 Jun

TA1106072989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left this morning for the Paris Air Show and his entourage hopes that a meeting with President Mitterrand will be arranged at the last minute.

Said To Receive 'Arafat 'Message'

TA1306142789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is visiting France, was informed of the contents of a personal message from Yasir 'Arafat, but refused to accept it officially.

The message was brought by Marie-Claire Mendes-France, the widow of the former French prime minister and president of the Middle East Peace Council. She received the message when she visited Tunis last week with her friend French President Francois Mitterrand.

Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that Mrs Mendes-France refused to disclose the contents of the message. It most likely referred to a readiness to start direct talks with Israel and an agreement in principle to holding elections in the territories on the condition that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] first withdraws from them. Rabin's meeting with Mrs Mendes-France was held in Paris today after the defense minister's meeting with French intellectuals.

Youth Dies in Jabalyah; 3 Injured 10 Jun

TA1006091489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] A 16-year-old youth from the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was killed this morning, evidently from IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunshots. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that locals have reported to the IDF that the youth was killed by plastic bullets. The IDF is investigating the incident.

Our correspondent adds that three Gaza Strip residents were injured this morning. The Strip has been under curfew for several days.

Military Debt 'Only 25 Percent' of Foreign Debt

JN1206133089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Authorized sources in Amman have revealed to our radio station that Jordan's military debt constitutes only 25 percent of that nation's foreign debt, which amounts to $8.1 billion. This figure is much lower than previous reports, which stated that the greater part of the foreign debt is military.

Also, these sources asserted that the government is committed to the economic reform program that was agreed upon with the IMF, although this program is inadequate as it was originally based on the assumption that Jordan's debt is $6.6 billion, not $8.1 billion.

In order to contend with this situation, the government will resort to cutting government spending and liquidating or closing the problem-ridden public sector companies that burden the state's treasury by receiving either direct contributions or governmental subsidies.

It is expected that these measures will save around 200 million dinars without increasing the burden on citizens.

King Emphasizes Role of Youth in Current Stage

JN1206194589 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Today at noon His Majesty King Husayn met in the Royal Hashemite Court, in the presence and with the participation of Crown Prince Hasan, with the members of the Arab Youth Forum, who represent all the youth of the country.

During the meeting, his majesty affirmed the importance of activating dialogue between officials and citizens, especially the youth sector, who represent the largest cross-section of the population. His majesty called for holding youth thought seminars in all the Kingdom's cities, which contribute toward calm and objective dialogue and strengthen contacts between the official and the citizen.

His majesty affirmed what was said in the letter of designation: giving the youth sector special care, looking after their affairs, following up on their aspirations, strengthening their national and pan-Arab dignity, and gathering their efforts for voluntary work in various fields.

His majesty called on the youth sector to depend on themselves, extend a helping hand to others with the use of the enthusiasm and energy that God has granted them, and participate in building the model villages. Every good voluntary deed will yield benefits and good things for them, their families, and the sons of their country.

His majesty said that the youth of today are the men of tomorrow and pillars of the future, just as their fathers were the youth of the past. They attained, with effort, sacrifice, and giving, the achievements that our dear country has realized today on various levels and in various fields. His majesty called on the youth to learn more about the history of their country, nation, and immortal heritage.

His majesty called on the youth to exert all efforts to protect the local environment, which the whole world has become involved in confronting. He also called on them to contribute toward the programs which are set and implement them in a way in which the national feeling toward protecting the environment becomes one of the basic values and principles of our society.

His majesty also discussed internal issues and the difficulties of the current economic stage. He said that these difficulties are the result of the economic slump suffered by the region as a whole, and the decrease in Arab aid to Jordan, which is shouldering the burden of confrontation along the longest military front with Israel to defend the Arab homeland. He affirmed that by rallying all the sons of the nation, especially youth, we will overcome this stage—with God's help—to continue the march of construction, sacrifice, and self-dependence.

His majesty affirmed Jordan's determination and insistence over the march of Arab solidarity in defense of the principles in which Jordan believed and still does. He pointed out that our Armed Forces, which carry the motto of the Arab army, defended, and will continue to defend, every inch of the great Arab homeland.

His majesty discussed the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council, which is considered a positive pan-Arab deed for the benefit of the people of this council and the Arab nation, and which constitutes a new stage of joint Arab action.

His majesty affirmed continuing support for the PLO in its stands and actions and for the Palestinian people's struggle until they realize their legitimate national rights by retrieving their liberty, independence, and sovereignty over their national soil.

A dialogue took place between his majesty and the nation's youth participating in the meeting. They affirmed their pride in his majesty's wise leadership. They also affirmed their determination to intensify their action to serve their country and nation.

Comments on Electoral Law

JN1306103489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—His Majesty King Husayn has said that the new electoral law will soon be reconsidered with regard to the distribution of seats so that all sectors are represented and so that everyone will be able to exercise his right to vote.

This came during his majesty's meeting yesterday with members of the Arab Youth Forum at Basman Palace, which was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

His majesty added that the elections will soon result in a parliament capable of soundly assuming responsibilities along with the state and government.

It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Interior set up a committee to formulate a new electoral law after Jordan's decision to disengage legal and administrative relations with the West Bank. A royal decree was issued on 15 April 1989 approving the new electoral law, but various social sectors in Jordan demanded a reconsideration of the recent amendment's distribution of seats.

'Contradictory' Position Noted in U.S. UN Veto

JN1006082689 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jun 89 pp 20, 19

["News Analysis" by the political editor: "An Unbalanced U.S. Veto"]

[Text] Yesterday the United States vetoed a Security Council resolution condemning the Zionist repression against the defenseless Palestinians in the occupied territories under the pretext that the resolution was "unbalanced."

The U.S. pretext cannot, of course, convince anyone, for how can there be a balance with Israel, the state that is occupying the Arab territories by force and that is practicing the ugliest forms of coercion and brutality against defenseless citizens struggling to liberate their lands from an oppressive occupation? The United States adopted this stand at the Security Council because it wanted the draft resolution to condemn Israel as well as the Palestinian citizens, as indicated by the word "unbalanced" used in the U.S. justification.

The U.S. Security Council veto can only be viewed within the general context of U.S. Middle East policy and as an inseparable part of it. Therefore, we note a sharp contradiction in this policy.

U.S. officials, headed by President Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, have since their assumption of office made statements giving new hope that the United States is seriously seeking a balanced settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. U.S. officials have publicly condemned Israel's policy in the occupied territories and its intention to annex these territories. They have also called for putting a final end to colonization and occupation and have continued the policy of dialogue with the PLO. All these statements and stands, as we have said, indicate that Washington is adopting a new Middle East policy, which met with Israeli dissatisfaction and Arab welcome—or at least a reserved Arab acceptance in hopes that the U.S. stand will develop further in the interests of a just and comprehensive Middle East peace. However, in spite of the positive signs we mentioned, the United States has continued to play its old role of protecting Israel from the international organizations' resolutions, particularly those of the UN Security Council, which condemned its policy and brutal practices in the occupied territories, and which were condemned even by the United States itself.

Is this not a contradictory U.S. stand toward what is happening in the occupied territories and the Arab-Israeli conflict?

The United States is required to reformulate its stands and draw up a new strategy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. An unstable and vacillating policy toward this conflict will serve neither U.S. interests nor the efforts being exerted to resolve the region's conflict, which is still posing a threat to international peace and security.

Joint Syrian Industry Company Begins Meetings

JN1206203889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] The general assembly meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Company for Industry to discuss the appropriate means to develop and support the work of the company began in Amman today under the chairmanship of the ministers of industry of the two fraternal countries.

Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad 'Annab affirmed the need to support the Jordanian-Syrian Company for Industry as an example for joint Arab companies to follow. He pointed out the importance of supporting joint Arab projects to achieve Arab integration in all fields.

Syrian Industry Minister Antoine Halabi pointed out the importance of supporting the march of the company, which is a product of joint Arab cooperation with the aim of serving the Arab homeland's interests. He clarified the need to use raw materials in both countries in joint industries. It is expected that the committee will issue its recommendations at the conclusion of its meetings tomorrow.

FRG Hostages Reportedly Moved to Suburb

NC1206164289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Voice of Lebanon has learned that the two West German hostages have been moved from the south to the southern suburb under the supervision of Hizballah military official 'Abd-al-Hadi Hamadah.

2 Iranian Divisions Reportedly Arrive via Syria

JN1206132289 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Beirut, Jun. 12, INA—A Lebanese security source confirmed that two Iranian military divisions had lately arrived in Lebanon across the Syrian territories.

The source informed INA's correspondent in Beirut today that the Syrian regime offered the necessary facilities to the Iranian divisions to cross the Syrian territories after their arrival at Damascus Airport.

The source requested the Arab tripartite committee to take the necessary measures to prevent the Syrian regime from giving access to foreign forces to join it in sabotage and conspiracy against the Lebanese people.

Iranian Embassy Denies Report

NC1206145789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Beirut denied today that regular units from the Iranian Army are present in Lebanon. Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim had revealed the existence of such units in Lebanon. A spokesman for the Iranian Embassy stated that the Iranian presence in Lebanon is designed to fight the Israeli enemy. He added that all those who criticize this presence serve the objectives of the enemy and his agents.

Iran Reaffirms Continued Support for Hizballah

NC1206182889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] In a statement issued in Ba'labakk today, Hizballah said Ayatollah Khamene'i, the new leader of the Iranian revolution, has stressed to three Hizballah leaders that Iran's support for the party will continue after Khomeyni's death.

The statement said that the Hizballah delegation, which included Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Husayn al-Musawi, and Husayn Khalil, has extended condolences to the senior Iranian officials in Tehran on the death of Imam Khomeyni.

Further on Meeting With Khamene'i

NC1306070389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, has received a delegation representing the Hizballah nation who visited him to offer condolences on the death of great Imam Khomeyni, may the Almighty sanctify his soul, and to acknowledge him as a new leader of the Islamic revolution.

During the meeting Ayatollah Khamene'i affirmed to the delegation members that the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to support the struggle of the sons of the Hizballah nation in Lebanon, just as was the case during the life of the leader imam. He also assured them that the Islamic Republic will continue its struggle against Israel with the same firmness and strength which the imam always emphasized, may the Almighty gratify his soul.

Leader Khamene'i addressed the delegation members saying: Imam Khomeyni, may the Almighty sanctify his soul, had special links with the faithful resistance in Lebanon. You will realize the imam's goal of continuing the battle until Israel is eradicated, he said. You are fighting and resisting the Zionist entity which usurped the land, and this would have gratified the imam.

Leader Khamene'i added: Anti-Islamic powers in Lebanon are involved in activities designed to impair anti-Israeli powers. Should they succeed in this, they will deal strong blows to the resistance and do away with it. However, he added, we trust that the enemies will not realize this goal. It is important for us to have faith in the Almighty, trust his grace, and depend on ourselves.

Leader Khamene'i continued: We believe that the strong resistance involving the faithful elements in Lebanon and all the powers which are fighting Israel and its conspiracies will prevent the enemy from realizing its wicked goals.

The leader of the Islamic revolution concluded by saying: Please convey my greetings and my thanks to all brother mujahidin in Hizballah. May the Almighty guide you along the revolutionary course.

Arab League's Ibrahimi Arrives in Beirut 12 Jun

NC1206205589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary-general, arrived in Beirut from Damascus at 2200 today. He immediately met with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and later with Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. Ibrahimi will leave for East Beirut tomorrow where he will convey to Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn the Syrian responses to the proposals that Gen 'Awn had submitted to him last Saturday [10 June].

PSP's Junblatt Interviewed on Syrian Presence

NC1206183789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Whether the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon succeeds in its mission depends on the extent to which it can neutralize Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and keep him from using some Lebanese groups against Syria. If this happens, it will be tangible progress.

This was said in a statement by Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], who noted that the problem lies in Lebanon and, therefore, the committee must look for a solution here in Lebanon. In a press statement, Junblatt said the Casablanca summit resolutions represent a last chance. If Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria fail to achieve something, then what else is left?

Asked what will happen if the committee fails in its mission, Junblatt said: We have become used to this; they will form a new committee. However, it is the Lebanese who matter. The Arabs and the world must know that we cannot live under this politically exhausted system. The Christians in Lebanon must also realize that they cannot live alone. The Muslims and the Christians must have equal rights. If the Christians try to establish their own state, they will endanger all Christians in the Middle East. Lebanon cannot accept Christian control of the state. Lebanon is a multisectarian country, and it is high time we obtain our rights.

In an interview with a Bulgarian media team, Junblatt reviewed the current developments in Lebanon and the situation in the region. He stressed that the problem in Lebanon is not one between Christians and Muslims, as portrayed by the Western press. After all, half the Christians in Lebanon live outside the eastern areas: in Zahlah, northern Lebanon, Dayr al-Qamar, and the south. The problem in our country is one between two currents, the first of which represents a desire to make political changes and to build a new political system in Lebanon, while the second is one of military dictatorship. He added: If the West believes our crisis stems from a dispute between Christians and Muslims, let them tell us why there is a problem in [Northern] Ireland between Christians? The situation in Lebanon is no different from that in Ireland. Before they level accusations against us, let them find a way to resolve the Irish problem.

Junblatt said the Syrians have fundamental interests in Lebanon: geographical proximity, human and economic relations, security interests, etc. Lebanon cannot agree to act against Syria. Michel 'Awn said he wanted to liberate Lebanon from the Syrians, but we cannot allow this. We say yes to independence, but Lebanon must have normal relations with Syria. 'Awn is backed by Iraq and Israel, and France is betting on him as well. One of the much talked about issues is Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon and the establishment of special relations between the two countries as a way of affirming Lebanon's Arab character. The most important condition for improving the situation in Lebanon is the withdrawal of Israel. The people of Al-Yarzah [Defense Ministry] absolutely do not care about this problem. They insist that the Syrians leave before they will talk. As you can see, there is no possibility of an agreement with Michel 'Awn. This possibility may exist with other Christians or other politicians, but not with Michel 'Awn. He added: The political formula bequeathed from the time of the French mandate is superseded and outdated, and we must change it.

Regarding the possibility of organizing the situation in the south as one of the elements of the Lebanese crisis, Junblatt said the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance are legitimate because they oppose a foreign occupation. To ensure security in the south, we need the men to do that; that is, the Lebanese Army. It is essential that we have a Lebanese Army we can trust, and we cannot trust 'Awn's army. We need an army acceptable to us, because after all it will pass through our territory. It must be an army on which we can rely. This is the central problem: the formation of a true Lebanese nationalist army. The entire structure of the Lebanese Army needs to be changed, because part of it is being used by the Maronites against us, taking advantage of the Maronites' alliance with Iraq and Israel. This is a satanic and vicious circle. We could have asked for international assistance to increase the international troops in the south, and here there is room for a possible solution, even if a partial one. However, Israel does not want to accept any resolution and is using the situation in Lebanon as an excuse for its activity. We do not possess the means to establish law and order and security in the south. [passage omitted]

U.S. Ambassador on 'Awn Involvement in Solution

NC1306100189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] U.S. Ambassador in Lebanon John McCarthy has been quoted as saying that General 'Awn is an existing reality and that there can be no reconciliation or solution without him, as he put it. McCarthy said that Syria cannot lead the current contacts to a solution if it does not cooperate with Gen 'Awn.

Sa'adah Reelected Phalangist Party Leader

NC1206093389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Dr George Sa'adah has been reelected unopposed as leader of the Phalangist Party for a renewable 3-year term. Lawyer Munir al-Haj has been elected deputy leader for a 3-year term.

Out of 84 members, 78 voted to elect the members of the party's political bureau. Six members were absent. [passage omitted]

12 Elected to Political Bureau

NC1206172789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Dr George Sa'adah was today unanimously reelected as leader of the Phalangist Party for a 3-year term. Lawyer Munir al-Hajj was unanimously elected as deputy leader. Furthermore, the 12 members of the political bureau were elected as follows: Elie Qardahi, Alfred Madi, George Kassab, George Qassis, Emile Farah, Georgette Antun, Ibrahim Risha, Antoine Shadir, Butrus Khawand, Louis Hunaynah, Fu'ad Abu-Nadir, and Khalil Nadir.

Army Positions in Suq al-Gharb Under Fire

NC1206161989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] The Syrian forces continue to provoke security incidents. Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb have been coming under fire since 1840 today. Rocket and sniper fire were directed earlier today against the Sodeco-Primo combat lines.

Intermittent Shelling, Clashes on Mountain Lines

NC1306100289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] The areas of Baysur, Kayfun, and the al-Karamah road are coming under intermittent shelling from mortars and tanks. Clashes have been in progress on the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat axis in the mountain region since 0900 today. Automatic weapons and rockets are being used in the fighting.

The Al-Yarzah command had prepared for this round of attacks with a statement it issued this morning, calling on the citizens to take precautionary measures.

East Beirut media have reported that the Furn al-Shubbak and al-Mukallis areas have been bombarded. They also noted that a shell fell on B'abda Palace.

Israeli Mock Raids Over Sidon Reported

NC1306072089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0719 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes are conducting mock raids over Sidon and the Palestinian camps.

Afghanistan

Milli Shura Sends Message to Soviets on Sakharov

LD1006102989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] The extraordinary session of the administrative panel of the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, under the chairmanship of Dr Mahmud Habibi, senate chairman, was held this morning in the headquarters of the Milli Shura to consider the utterance of Academician Sakharov, and to approve a message addressed to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR:

The utterance of Academician Sakharov, member of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, was debated at the session of the administrative panel of the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, which regarded his utterance as a far from objective assessment of the political and social realities of our country.

Kabul Response to Bush-Bhutto Talks Viewed

BK1206022989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0205 GMT 12 Jun 89

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, June 12 (AFP)—Communist party members and many Afghan government officials here have greeted with frustration last week's call by the United States and Pakistan for the resignation of the Najibullah government to pave the way for peace.

Their argument is simple: There are two sides to the war in Afganistan, how can you exclude one side and then say you are holding peace talks.

President Najibullah, who has said he is prepared to sacrifice his life for peace with the rider that he does not believe his own resignation would alter the equation, criticized the call as "unrealistic and irresponsible."

"Is a third side going to fall from the sky," asked one government official when news of the joint statement by U.S. President George Bush and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Washington reached Kabul.

"We don't say they should dissolve their government (the interim government set up in February by Pakistan-based mujahidin)," commented leading Politburo member Najmuddin Kawiani. "Let us talk first."

Mr Kawiani, 41, a member of the Central Committee, said he thinks there would be a vacuum if the government were to step down. Who, he asks, could step in without an army between two powerful sides who do have armies.

"What we need is a joint commission (representatives from both the Kabul government and the mujahidin or intermediaries chosen by the two), not any (new) kind of government," he said in an interview this week.

Mr Kawiani, who like the president says his government is committed to the peace process and the formation of a broad-based government, did not rule out a brokering role for the United Nations or for former monarch Zaher Shah, during whose reign he was jailed twice as a young active communist.

But he does say that Zahir Shah should first talk to the government here, as one of the protagonists, and that he believes the ex-king, because he does not have an army, could not head an interim government during negotiations.

Mr Kawiani, like many party members, is unfazed by mujahidin accusations that the Najibullah government and particularly the president, are mere "Soviet puppets," the last vestige of what they have fought 10 years to oust.

Speaking with the new-found confidence of having in the four months since the Soviet troop withdrawal watched the mujahidin interim government founder on internal quarrels, and of watching the Kabul Armed Forces at least hold their own against massive mujahidin attacks against Jalalabad and Khost, he says he is "confident of the future."

Mr Kawiani recites a litany of reasons for optimism: Ms Bhutto's stated desire to see some three million Afghan refugees return home from Pakistan, a Soviet airlift that has made a mockery of mujahidin attempts to block food and arms supplies to Kabul, and the fact that the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) has so far managed to control its own factional disputes.

He also says he sees a change in mood among the people of Kabul.

"If until yesterday there was sympathy among Kabul citizens for the mujahidin, it is not any more," he said. "We think that six months from now the situation will have completely changed (in favor of the party)."

Many Kabul residents, it is difficult to gauge how many, and some party members, again their numbers difficult to gauge in the absence of a public debate, disagree with him, or at least with his optimism.

There are those who say privately that they see Mr Najibullah, though not necessarily the whole party, stepping down and the return of the ageing Zaher Shah from exile in Italy could be "the only solution."

They argue that the mujahidin leaders will never talk to Mr Najibullah and that the war will drag on interminably.

Nor do they think that the bitter infighting, marked in the past by hundreds of executions, between the Khalq and Parcham factions of the PDPA is any more than held in abeyance.

Some are convinced that Soviet leaders are of the same belief, and would be ready to "sacrifice" Mr Najibullah, if not the party leadership, in the interests of a broad-based government sympathetic to Moscow, or at least prepared to maintain good economic relations.

Neutral diplomats here concede there is a problem for Mr Najibullah.

"Whatever good (Mr Najibullah) has done... in comparison to the bloodier regimes before him, his name has become a symbol to the opposition, a symbol of what they want to get rid of," said one diplomat.

Others see glimmers of hope in Mr Najibullah request to parliamentarians last month to name provincial leaders they thought might be acceptable to meet with opposition (mujahidin) leaders.

They also see significance in his unofficial response to the Bush-Bhutto statements of last week, in which the president talked only of the PDPA government, not of himself. "Again he did not rule out his own departure, if only by inference," said one.

"Najibullah is no fool," said a diplomat who has been in Kabul for longer than most. "He might step down should he see a purpose, immediate benefit, but just to satisfy an outcry, he does not see why he should."

The diplomat pointed to the fact that the president has been able to keep the lid on factional fighting in the party even at a time when his own Parchams are having to rely on an increasing number of Khalqis in the military.

Najibullah Letter to UN on Border Situation

LD1106082989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 10, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of Afghanistan addressed a message to Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general today.

The message runs: Following the previous letter of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan pointing to the emerging of critical developments in the frontier cities and provinces with Pakistan mainly in Jalalabad, Qandahar and Khowst resulting from intensification of interference and aggression of Pakistan against Afghanistan and establishment of new permanent UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] observation posts especially after withdrawal of the Soviet limited contingent from Afghanistan, I want to state that the situation has been worsening. Armed aggression and transfer of arms and munition, despatch of mercenaries attached to Saudi Arabian Wahhabis as well as Pakistani militias and paratroopers into the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan have been increased recently.

We believe that continuation of this dangerous situation around the Republic of Afghanistan is fully contrary to the peace process and security as well as interest on the people in the region and efforts of your excellency in regard to the realization of the Geneva accords and the 43rd UN General Assembly resolution.

The message says further that the issue of creating of permanent UNGOMAP observation posts which can at least fulfil the present requirements was proposed and specified previously.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as a result of your efforts, agreed for the creation of 3 observation posts in the Towr Kham, Teri Mangal and Chaman areas.

Iqbal Akhund, advisor to the foreign and security affairs of Pakistan spoke in this relation in the sessions of the UN Security Council on April 11, 1989.

Now that these observation posts are created, we deem it necessary to point out that they are only active during the day. they are shifted into a distant area in the night, providing interference and aggression of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

While appreciating your efforts in this connection, we draw your attention to the elimination of this lacuna and demand you again that the other posts proposed by us earlier be created as well. We confidently assure you that creation of these observation posts play positive role for the prevention of flagrant armed Pakistani aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan.

We once again demand that these posts be immediately created for the purposes of assessing situation in the frontier areas and inform signatories and guarantors of the Geneva accords on and off.

BAKHTAR Details 'Extremists' Attacks

LD1106082389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0418 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 10, BAKHTAR—Extremists supported by the 11th Pakistani Corps attacked Chaprahar, Kameh, Behsood and the Gamberi Desert during the past 24 hours. A civilian killed, another wounded and a shop demolished during the post 24 hours, an authorised military source said.

The air and artillery attacks of the armed forces killed 225 extremists. 146 others wounded. Forty six Pakistanis and Wahhabis are also included among those killed. Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy destroyed.

The Khowst garrison in a retaliatory attack killed 42 extremists and wounded 16 others in that district.

State armed detachments in Qandahar killed 21 extremists 11 others wounded. A service man was killed and another wounded there as well.

Five civilians killed and 8 others wounded during the heavy attacks of the enemy in the Parvan Province. Armed forces killed 6 enemies and wounded 9 others.

Situation in the rest of the country described as calm and peace.

Main roads leading to Kabul and other provincial centres of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] remained open.

'Fierce Fighting' at Jalalabad Reported

BK1106143889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, fierce fighting is raging at Jalalabad front in which the Kabul regime forces had to suffer heavy casualties. The mujahidin ambushed three convoys at Sarowbi and (?southern) parts of Jalalabad, killing 10 soldiers, including a colonel, and injuring nearly 30. The Kabul regime continued Scud missile fire at (Khusgandez) and Chaprahar in Jalalabad in which dozens of civilians were killed or wounded and several hundred houses were destroyed.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin strongly refuted the Kabul administration's claim that some of their representatives have established contacts with the administration to join it. Mujahidin sources say that the Kabul regime is under heavy pressure from the mujahidin and is on the brink of collapse and this is why the Kabul regime is now striving to create misunderstanding among the mujahidin by such baseless propaganda.

Mujahidin Warn of Decisive Offensive on Qandahar

BK1106170089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1650 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Quetta, Pakistan, June 11 (AFP)—The mujahidin resistance warned residents of Qandahar Sunday [11 June] to evacuate the southern city ahead of a "decisive" guerrilla attack.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of the radical fundamentalist faction of the Hezb-e Eslami party and foreign minister in the mujahidin interim government, said the rebels were set to launch a "decisive offensive" on the city.

"Already, the airport is completely surrounded, and the people of Qandahar have been invited to leave the city to avoid civilian losses," said Mr. Hekmatyar in this northwestern Pakistani city on the Afghan border.

Resistance and official Kabul media have both reported fighting around Qandahar, the country's second largest city, in the past few days, especially near the airport, where the mujahidin said Friday they had destroyed six Soviet-made helicopters and a petrol station.

Mr. Hekmatyar said guerrillas had taken several positions between the city and the airport to prevent government forces moving between the two points. [passage omitted]

Fighting around Qandahar, a key target for the mujahidin, has become less intense in the past few months, prompting thousands of refugees to return to Afghanistan from Pakistan.

Analysts said the resistance need to take a big city to retain credibility among their Pakistani and U.S. backers in the event of a political settlement.

Their inability to coordinate their military operations in the field has been highlighted by their offensive on the eastern garrison city of Jalalabad where after three months they have been unable to take the city and have suffered heavy casualties, according to relief agencies.

India

Nepal Asks for Trade, Transit Talks in Jul

BK1306011389 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Nepal has suggested that the talks on trade and transit with India be held sometime in the 2d week of next month. This was conveyed by Nepal's foreign minister, Mr S.K. Upadhyaya, to the Indian ambassador, Mr A.R. Gill, when he called on him in Kathmandu yesterday.

Nepal had earlier wanted the talks to be held this month.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the government is puzzled at the continuous propaganda from Nepal on the so-called economic blockade by India. He pointed out that India has decided to go ahead with the supply of 15,000 tons of levy sugar to Nepal this year despite the fact that it has to import sugar. India supplies levy sugar to Nepal at a subsidized price under a special arrangement.

Envoy Dixit Apprises Gandhi of Pakistan Issues

BK0906124889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] India's ambassador to Pakistan, Mr J.N. Dixit, met the prime minister in New Delhi and apprised him of the recent developments in Pakistan and the Afghan issue.

Mr Dixit also informed Mr Rajiv Gandhi about the progress made on the series of bilateral discussions on civil aviation, railways, and border security.

An official spokesman told newsmen that the prime minister also examined issues which would come up at the forthcoming bilateral meetings between the defense secretaries and the foreign secretaries and the next meeting of the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission.

Soviet Envoy Commends India, Assails U.S. on Agni
BK1306091289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in India, Mr Viktor Isakov, has said that the successful launching of Agni [surface-to-surface missile] demonstrated India's ability in the field of missile technology. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr Isakov commended Indian scientists for their achievement.

Referring to the American criticism of India's missile program, the Soviet ambassador said it is wrong to say that Agni would spark a missile race in South Asia.

Accusing the West of adopting double standard, Mr Isakov wondered why Pakistan's statements that it did not possess nuclear weapons were accepted and India was suspected when it developed missile technology.

Spokesman on Sri Lankan Withdrawal Demand
BK1206163489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] India has reiterated its firm commitment to the phased withdrawal of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] from Sri Lanka as soon as practicable. An External Affairs [Ministry] spokesman said in New Delhi, however, that this must be accompanied by simultaneous implementation of the relevant clauses of the India-Sri Lankan agreement.

In a statement today, the spokesman mentioned specifically that there has to be a devolution of effective powers to the Northeastern Provincial Council and the creation of a credible law and order machinery in the province. This will enable the Tamils to live with safety and security and guarantee their democratic rights within a united Sri Lanka.

He was reacting to several recent statements issued by the Sri Lankan ministers and officials. Some of these statements fix unilateral and unrealistic time frames for PKF's withdrawal. Other statements gave one-sided interpretations of various provisions and said [as heard] to govern such matters. The spokesman said these statements ignore the fact that there is a bilateral agreement signed by the heads of the two governments, that certain actions have been taken, sacrifices made, and there is a mutuality of obligations. These have been made at a time when efforts are on through diplomatic channels to evolve an understanding between the two governments on this question. The spokesman said the statements come in disregard of Sri Lanka's own request to India to avoid public statements.

The spokesman recalled that India had clearly stated in January this year that a phased withdrawal of the PKF has begun, and as the situation in the Northeastern Province improves, further withdrawals will be made in consultations with Colombo. This process continued, and substantial withdrawals have been made. It is being done in a spirit of consultation and cooperation and based on assurances that the process of implementation of the relevant clauses of the agreement is going ahead.

The spokesman pointed out that the recent actions and statements in Sri Lanka, however, have created an air of uncertainty in this regard. He said the withdrawal schedule of the PKF can only be decided by mutual consultations as has been done till now, and not through unilateral deadlines.

The spokesman further said that India is closely following the developments in Sri Lanka in the wake of the threats by the JVP [Janatha Vikumthi Peramuna] directed against the Indian community. He said the responsibility for providing adequate security to foreign nationals and foreign diplomatic missions is that of the host government. New Delhi is in touch with Colombo in this regard, the spokesman added.

The former external affairs minister, Mr S.N. Mishra, has regretted that the resolutions adopted by the Bharatiya Janata Party and the National Front on India-Sri Lanka relations seem to be in tune with President Premadasa's announcement setting a date for the withdrawal of the PKF. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said it is obvious that certain political parties in India—for their own selfish and parochial interests—are offering their support to President Premadasa's somewhat ill-conceived demand, as Mr Mishra put it.

A Sri Lankan Muslim Congress leader, Mr (Gegur Isadin), has said that the Muslim community in the Northeastern Province does not want the PKF to withdraw without ensuring the security of Tamils and Muslims in the region. Mr (Isadin), who had meetings with PKF authorities, told our correspondent that the PKF had promised further protection to Muslims in the region.

Delhi Security Tightened Following Bomb Blast
BK1306085489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Out of 41 persons injured and admitted in various hospitals of the capital following a bomb blast at the New Delhi railway station yesterday, 25 are still undergoing treatment. According to railway authorities the condition of nine of them is stated to be serious.

Meanwhile, security in the capital has been tightened. The Delhi police have again cautioned people against touching unattended and abandoned items at public places. The police have announced a reward of 20,000 rupees for anyone giving a clue to the blast.

Delhi Blast Death Toll at 7; Police Urge Caution

BK1206164689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Excerpts] A bomb explosion killed seven persons at the New Delhi railway station this morning. Briefing newsmen about the incident, a spokesman of the Northern Railways said 41 persons were injured, 26 of them seriously. They have been admitted to nearby hospitals. [passage omitted]

At a high-level meeting, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, reviewed the law and order situation in the capital following the bomb blast. An official spokesman said the meeting felt that the incident may be a retaliatory action by the Punjab terrorists who are on the run from the state. The Delhi Police have been asked to keep a watch on all exit points, including airports and bus terminals, to apprehend the culprits. It was also decided to post extra policemen at crowded places.

The Delhi Police have again cautioned people to be careful about unattended and abandoned items at public places, saying that these should be brought to the notice of the police immediately. The police have announced a reward of 20,000 rupees to anyone giving a clue to the blast.

Iran

Majlis Speaker's Eulogy Marks 7th Day of Mourning

LD1106144589 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service at 1415 GMT on 11 June in a live broadcast from Behesht-e Zahra cemetery in Tehran carries a 14-minute eulogy by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at a mourning service to mark the 7th day since the death of Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani begins: We never thought we would see the day when we would have to lay the imam to rest. How lucky are the martyrs lying beside the imam, a person who had millions praying for his health and asking that he remain until the arrival of the hidden imam. But God did not grant us that wish.

He continues: O dear Imam. On behalf of millions of your devotees, we will not forget you. Dear Imam, your death is serving Islam just as your life did. The people understand what a great man was among them. The whole world speaks of it. Would that you were here to witness it.

He says: Thousands of people have come from throughout the country. Your Basiji servants are like orphans. They have prepared a shrine for you and I know that it will become a place of pilgrimage.

Hashemi-Rafsanjanfi says: Your dear son, who is too overcome with grief, asked me to address you the devoted people. The torch of love for our imam burns in millions of hearts. I do not want to talk too much in this heat and in these circumstances.

He concludes: O God, let the imam be pleased with us. O God, let us continue as the imam would have wished us to. O God, give us strength to realize the imam's aims. May God's peace and blessings be on you.

Majlis Speaker on Khomeyni's Son, Planned Shrine

LD0906142389 Tehran IRNA in English 1322 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 9, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, has called on people to take part in ceremonies marking the 7th day of his father's death.

In a message read by Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Friday prayer, Ahmad also thanked the people for their massive turnout in the past five days to mourn the passing away of Imam Khomeyni.

But he urged people to return to work on Saturday at the end of th five-day holiday announced by the government.

"The imam would not have been satisfied to see the wheels of the country are not turning," the Majlis speaker quoted Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni.

The imam died last Saturday of a heart attack 11 days after surgery on his digestive system.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the competence shown by the imam's son and in playing a "fundamental role" in running the imam's headquarters.

"I must stress on the efforts made by his (the imam's) honorable son. Accept me as a good witness. In particular issues I could grasp things and saw that Ahmad was truly very effective in helping to make decisions and give advice (to the imam)."

The reason why the Hojjat ol-Eslam had not accepted any executive posts during these years was that the imam knew that he could not do without him at his side.

Meanwhile it was also announced that a special account had been set up for people to donate funds for the construction of a shrine at the imam's grave site.

"We feel the imam would have wanted his shrine be built by the people and with what they give voluntarily," said Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The government would still carry out its obligations in this regard and provide the necessary facilities but the imam's family preferred that the money come from popular donations.

Account Opened for Donations to Khomeyni Shrine
LD0906161489 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 9, IRNA—A special bank account has been opened to collect donations for the construction of a shrine at the grave site of Imam Khomeyni in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, the imam's son said today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni said in a statement the imam led the country with the people's support, thus "the people must have a fundamental role in building the shrine."

The account No. 200 would be open for voluntary donations as of Saturday at all banks throughout the country.

The founder of the Islamic Republic passed away Saturday night, 11 days after undergoing a major surgery. He was laid to rest Tuesday following an unprecedented memorial service attended by nearly 10 million people.

A 22,000 square meter area around the imam's grave site has been prepared for the shrine, according to an official of the Construction Jihad Ministry.

He said Jihad personnel were now setting up an 11,520 square meter roofed area at the site to provide shading for the pilgrims. Tehran Mayor Morteza Tabataba'i has appointed his deputy Mohammad Hoseyn Teyrani [name as received] as caretaker of the imam's shrine to provide public services for thousands of pilgrims who visit the site to pay homage to their imam.

To arrange the ceremony commemorating the 7th day of the imam's death, the gravesite would be closed to pilgrims from 20:00 hours local time (16:30 GMT) Friday till Sunday.

Voice, Vision Announces Prayers for Khomeyni
LD1306083489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Statement issued by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. From God we come and to Him we shall return. [Koranic verse] We express our condolences to the lord of the ages, God hasten his auspicious advent, and to Imam Khomeyni's honorable family, especially to his esteemed son, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, for the heart-rending passing away of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

For that reason, services will be held between 1500 and 1730 hours [1130-1400 GMT] on Tuesday, 13 June, at Belal Mosque of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The participation of the bereaved public will endorse the slogans of and give comfort to the organizers.

[Signed] The Supervisory Council, Managing Director, Deputy Managing Directors, and Employees of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli Speaks at Qom Ceremony
NC1206084089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] After the heavenly ascension of His Eminence the Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, the hope of the oppressed of the world, may his soul be sanctified, a spectacular prayer ceremony was held by Ayatollah Meshkini at the grand mosque in Qom last night.

At this ceremony, which was attended by representatives of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Grand Ayatollah Najafi-Mar'ashi; the representative of Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani; members of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution; scholars and clergymen of Qom Seminary; a number of foreign scholars residing in the seminary; and the mournful and committed ummah of the holy city of Qom, a special ceremony took place consisting of laments and chest-beating on the sorrow of having lost the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a speech, Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli eulogized the great personality of the imam of the ummah for bringing about fundamental changes in the religious seminaries and establishing new (?treaties) on Islamic rule and the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult. He eulogized the decisive leadership of his eminence in confronting the machinations of the sworn enemies of Islam and the revolution. He then referred to the support given by their eminences the ayatollahs, scholars, and clergymen, and the revolutionary and committee people of Islamic Iran. Speaking of the new leader of the Islamic system, he said: The opportune and worthy act by the experts of the country and their eminences the ayatollahs and scholars concerning Ayatollah Khamene'i is proof of his praiseworthy ability in the scientific, jurisprudential, and political fields and the fact that in recent years he carried out his momentous Islamic and revolutionary responsibility next to the late leader of the Islamic revolution in the best way possible.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli recalled that, with the heavenly ascension of the imam of the ummah, the bright and guiding path of that beloved figure of the ummah continues to be the path of the people and officials of the country. He pointed out: The revolutionary Iranian nation which, thanks to the existence of its valuable leader His Eminence Imam Khomeyni,

regained its true identity should continue to exert more efforts than before in order to achieve the just objectives of the revolution under the aegis of the life-instilling decrees of the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Religious Minorities To Mark Khomeyni Death

LD1006131289 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA—The Armenian community led by Archbishop Ardak Manukiyan will hold a special commemorative ceremony Sunday morning to mark the seventh day of Imam Khomeyni's passing away.

In related news, Assyrians, Jews and Zoroastrians will hold a joint mourning ceremony at the Jewish synagogue Monday afternoon to mark the occasion.

Grand Ayatollah Araki's Message to Khamene'i

LD1006225489 Tehran Domestic Servic in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Dear listeners, before continuing the foreign news listen to an item we have just received. The message from Sheykh al-Foqaha val-Mojtahedin [title denoting a venerable jurisconsult] His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Mohammad 'Ali Araki addressed to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To your eminence [word indistinct] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin [as heard] Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic, may your blessings increase.

While expressing condolences in connection with the tragic and irreparable loss—the death of Grand Ayatollah Khomeyni, who was truly the religious reviver of the century—I declare: The worthy selection of Your Eminence for the position of the leadership of the Islamic Republic is a source of comfort and hope for the heroic nation of Iran. There is no doubt that, in the current sensitive situation, the maintenance of the Islamic Republic's system, which is one of the important shari'a duties, (?depends) on that important fact. With supplication and entreaty to God and with supplication to the lord of the age [the hidden imam], may his noble advent be hastened, I plead for the endurance of your (?assertions and recommendations) in the performance of that very heavy responsibility.

It is evident that in the (intricacies of shari'a matters and important national issues, consultations with the great marja' [source of emulation] and with (?high) 'ulema will resolve all matters. I hope that, as before, the invisible hand of that holiness [reference to Khomeyni] will foil the cunning of Satans and the ploys of foreigners and will be of assistance to you. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] (?Al-Ahqar) Mohammad 'Ali Araki

[Dated] 6 Dhu al-Qi'dah, 1409, 26 Khordad 1367 [10 June 1989]

Khamene'i Response to Message

NC1206065789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] In answer to the cable of condolences from Grand Ayatollah Araki on the death of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has sent a cable to the grand ayatollah. The text of the cable is as follows:

In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. To Grand Ayatollah Araki, the esteemed great marja' [source of emulation], may your sublime blessings be everlasting.

Your Eminence's cable of condolences on the death of Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution, may God sanctify his pure soul, which was a truly irreparable and great loss, honored and consoled me. I sincerely thank Your Eminence for your affectionate explanations, devout prayers, and correct advice.

With the help of divine grace and blessings and with supplications to the lord of the age, may our souls be sacrificed to him and may his noble advent be hastened, my firm decision is to exert all possible efforts and mobilize all forces in order to fulfill the holy Islamic objectives and fully establish the rule of the law of true sharia which was the wish, path, and will of our late and beloved leader.

I beseech your eminence to remember me in your devout prayers always.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 21 Khordad 1368, 7 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1409 [11 June 1989]

Ayatollah Araki Reconfirms Shari'a Payments

LD1106135589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Following the heart-rending demise of his eminence Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, a number of the financial representatives [namayandegan-e mali] of his eminence the iman—may the benedications of Exalted God be upon him—have sought advice from his eminence Grand Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Mohammad 'Ali Araki asking his opinion about the receipt of shari'a payments by the imam's representatives. The text of the letter seeking advice [estefta'] and his reply are as follows:

In the name of Exalted God. To the blessed presence of Sheykh al-Foqaha val-Mojtahedin his Eminence Grand Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Mohammad 'Ali Araki, may your shadow extend. With greetings and condolences on the

demise of the illustrious leader, his holiness, Imam Khomeyni—may his noble dust be sanctified—please express your blessed opinion with respect to (?the permits to manage inheritance affairs) and the receipt of shari'a payments, which his eminence Imam Khomeyni—may the benedictions of Exalted God be upon him—had given to the honorable Friday imams and to trusted 'ulema in Qom Seminary and the provinces. May your presence continue.

[Signed] A number of the imam's representatives

The text of Grand Ayatollah Araki's reply is as follows:

In the name of Exalted God. I affirm [tanfiz] as they stand all written permits which his eminence the imam [word indistinct] had given to his trusted representatives and 'ulema.

[Signed] (?Your servant) Mohammad 'Ali Araki

[Dated] 10 June 1989

Mahdavi-Kani Lauds Swift Selection of Khamene'i
LD1106074489 Tehran IRNA in English 0606 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—A former interim prime minister and prominent alim praised the swift selection of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i as the new leader of the Islamic Republic.

Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani said foreign analysts had predicted problems for the Islamic Republic after Imam Khomeyni's death but Khamene'i's "suitable and quick selection shattered all their devilish designs."

"They saw that the 'ulema, when necessary, put aside all their differences, and that they all have the same view on the principles of the revolution," said the secretary general of the Combatant 'Ulema Society. The ayatollah was speaking at Tehran's Imam Sadeq University which he now heads, on Saturday.

Khamene'i, 49, was voted in an extraordinary session of the Council of Experts last Sunday less than 24 hours after Imam Khomeyni passed away in hospital following a heart attack.

Kani congratualted the nation on their new leader whom, he said, must be obeyed as the late imam was.

After the martyrdom of Mohammad 'Ali Rajair and Mohammad Javad Bahonar, president and prime minister, in August 1980 in a terrorist bomb blast, Kani briefly became interim prime minister. He has also held the post of interior minister and was a member of the Council of Guardians.

Assembly of Experts on Choosing Khamene'i Leader
LD1206173289 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—A hint from the late Imam Khomeyni that he preferred one man to succeed him as well as the problem of quickly choosing three to five men as members of a leadership council partly led to Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's selection as the new leader.

This is according to members of the Assembly of Experts interviewed by the daily KEYHAN, who also said the imam's expressed interest in Khamene'i was instrumental in the selection.

"In his response (to Ayatolah Meshkini, chairman of the Constitutional Review Council) the imam made no mention of a council," said Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Dastgheyb.

The letter was written in April in response to Meshkini's request for the imam's views on constitutional reform.

The imam only replied on the leadership issue and said a just mojtahed (a jurisprudent) approved by the experts would be qualified to become leader.

"Secondly," added Dastgheyb on the decision [to] pick one man as leader, "all three to five members of the Leadership Council had to be qualified and to find such individuals in a short time was difficult."

The five experts interviewed by the paper on Sunday said the experts, after hearing the imam's will being read by Ayatollah Khamene'i, debated the issue of leadership in a extraordinary meeting on June 4, less than 24 hours after the imam passed away.

They first discussed the possibility of forming a council but 44 out of the 76 members present voted against the council and opted for a single leader. When they started to debate who should be the leader "one of the gentlemen asked Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani with a loud voice that 'Why don't you say what you have been a witness to?'".

The deputy who repeated the demand several times was not named by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ehsanbakhs in the interview.

At this point in the debate Chief Justice 'Abdol Karim Musavi Ardabili also said "I was also a witness".

Then Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani began recalling a meeting with Imam Khomeyni a few months ago when the chief justice, the president, the prime minister, the Majlis speaker and the imam's son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni were present. In the meeting the imam rejected fears that putting Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri aside as deputy leader would create a vacuum in the country when the imam passed away.

"There is Khamene'i," the imam told the group, hinting that Khamene'i was suitable for leadership.

The late imam made a similar comment afterward in a private meeting with Hashemi-Rafsanjani and later to his son when Khamene'i was on an official visit to China and North Korea last month.

"These led the majority of experts to choose Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite his (Khamene'i's) unwillingness," said Hojjat ol-Eslam Moraveji.

Khamene'i was chosen by 60 votes, more than four fifth of the experts.

Press Hails Khamene'i Selection as New Leader

LD1206070389 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—Both English dailies Monday editorialized on selection of Ayatollah Khamene'i as the new leader replacing the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni who passed away on June 3.

TEHRAN TIMES and KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL both said the swift selection of the new leader took foreign media and political observers by surprise while hailing Khamene'i as the right choice for the post who enjoys great backing of the ulema, ranking officials and the people.

TEHRAN TIMES said Ayatollah Khamene'i's selection by the Assembly of Experts which according to evidences had been favoured by the late imam, clears all doubts on the leadership role for the nation in the years to come.

The daily referred to Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statement in Tehran's Friday prayers that Ayatollah Khamene'i as the new leader enjoyed a status "as good as that of the velayat-ye faqih (supreme religious jurisprudent)" urging all 'ulema to support him and follow his orders.

The paper added that Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani who has been confirmed by the new leader in his post of acting armed forces commander and who is the second most important figure next to the leader, disclosed more on the new leadership in Tehran's Friday prayers last week.

He told the congregation that the late leader while favouring Khamene'i as the successor had had told the Assembly of Experts, constitutionally empowered with the task of selecting a successor to the leader, that he needs not necessarily be a 'marja'—supreme religious leader.

Furthermore Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini which has a great influence in the country's theological centers and those of the Qom in particular fully backed Khamene'i's leadership.

The paper concluded that the new leader is expected to work for the fulfillment of the goals of the Islamic revolution and lead the country in the sensitive stage of the post-war era to reconstruction, overall prosperity and economic stability and well being.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL commenting on selection of the new leader said it amazed and stunned the foreign media, as well as political and news analysts worldwide.

Ayatollah Khamene'i's selection as the new leader by the 74-member Council of Experts and the following all-out support for him by the government, political figures and people, bewildered enemies of the Islamic revolution of Iran, said the daily.

Praising the choice, the paper said "what gladdens the Iranian people about the new leader are his well-known characteristics which cast a bright future for the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Among these qualifications the paper cited Khamene'i's knowledge of fiqh [religious jurisprudence] committment to Islam, popularity among 'ulema and people, political leadership, political activities and struggle under the former regime.

Army, IRGC Reaffirm Allegiance to Khamene'i

LD1306094189 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 13, IRNA—Minister of Defence Brigadier General Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali and officials from the Ministry and Organization of Defence Industries met with minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) 'Ali Shamkhani at the IRGC Ministry Monday [13 June].

They announced the Armed Forces's readiness in carrying out orders of the leader and president of the Islamic republic of Iran, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Jalali expressing condolences of the Armed Forces on the passing away of the late imam, said the meeting was held to further express solidarity of the Armed Forces with the new leader.

The Defence Ministry officials aiso met with IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i and emphasised further unity of the country's Armed Forces.

IRGC Units Pledge Allegiance to Khamene'i

NC1206084889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] On the heart-rending loss of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, may God bless his soul, the offices of the leadership's representative in the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], the IRGC Moqaddam base in the south, and the Lorestan, Khuzestan, Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, and affiliated units sent a joint message to Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

While expressing condolences on the heart-rending death of the founder of the Islamic Republic and the leader of the oppressed of the world, the message to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran says: As we had pledged allegiance with our blood to the imam, we also pledge allegiance to you. We will defend, to our last breath, our Islamic country and the fruits of the Islamic revolution. We declare that in every way we will be obedient to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ground Forces Chief Sends Khamene'i Message

LD0906173989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 JUN 89

[Text] Brigadier-General Hasani-Sa'di, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] Ground Forces, sent a message to Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader and commander in chief of the Armed Forces expressing condolences on the occasion of the heart-wrenching death of his excellency the imam, the great leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran. He then thanked the esteemed members of the Assembly of Experts for their suitable appointment, swearing the allegiance of all Ground Forces personnel to Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the IRI and commander in chief, pledging to sacrifice their lives in order to safeguard the sacred objectives of the IRI and its borders.

The IRI Army units stationed in the southern regions, also expressed their total obedience to the leadership of the IRI.

The Central News Unit reports that part of the message issued by the operational base of the IRI Ground Forces in the south, addressed to the leader of the Islamic Republic and the commander in chief, expresses condolences on his excellency the imam's ascent. The message states that for the purpose of continuing the path of the indefatigable leader of the oppressed and the Islamic Republic's founder, we swear allegiance to you, while considering total obedience to you to be the guarantee for safeguarding the revolution and the Islamic homeland. We are guarding the borders of Imam-e Zaman's [hidden imam] country with all our might and reliance upon Almighty God, while awaiting your orders.

Air Force Reaffirms Support for Khamene'i

LD1106134589 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force will wholeheartedly stand against any threat to the revolution, pledged the Air Force commander today.

Brigadier General Mansur Sattari, reaffirming the Air Force's allegiance to the new leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, said his force was fully ready to safeguard the revolution.

Sattari made the remarks in a speech at Jamaran Mosque, the residence of the late imam, on the northern outskirts of Tehran, where the Air Force personnel held a gathering to express condolences to the imam's household.

He also offered deep condolences, on behalf of the Air Force personnel and on his own behalf, to the imam's relatives especially his son Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni.

Majlis deputies also visited the imam's son at Jamaran Mosque this morning and condoled the passing away of his great father.

Imam Khomeyni passed away on June 3 and was buried on June 6 in an unprecedented funeral service attended by millions of mourners.

Guardians Council Secretary Swears Allegiance

LD1106134989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] The clerical and jurisconsult members of the Council of Guardians were received by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning.

According to a Central News Unit report, in this meeting, Ayatollah Mohammadi Gilani, Council of Guardians secretary, first expressed his condolences on the heart-rendering demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, and pledging the council's allegiance to Ayatollah Khamene'i on his appointment as the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Almighty God bestowed His grace upon you, and gave you the leadership of the Islamic ummah. Your command is efficacious, and we obey the leadership's command. We and the believers are the whole-hearted followers of the eminent line of leadership. May Almighty God—if He wills—make you more upright in this position of rectitude. We are certain that you will navigate the Islamic system's vessel in this turbulent ocean of the world, in the best possible manner.

Then Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while remarking that the Council of Guardians is the pillar of the nation and the solace of believers' hearts, graciously stated: If the Council of Guardians

remains powerful, resolute, and methodical, as it has in the past, it will bring consolidation to all those whose hearts beat for Islam. Our path is not a worldly path. It is the path of the divine aspirations and the prophets. The only way one can proceed on this path is through sincerity and appeals for help from Almighty God. The preliminary condition for proceeding on this path is to relinquish human whims.

Ayatollah Khamene'i added: Almighty God has bestowed His grace upon you, making polytheism a taboo, and this is God's (?imposition) upon man. We should perceive this divine (?imposition), and benefit from it.

Continuing his remarks, the Islamic Republic of Iran's leader graciously stated: With the exception of the prophets and the imams—may God's benediction be upon them—no character such as Imam Khomeyni, with those all-embracing qualities, has existed in the past, or if so, we have not been aware of it. But if such an illustrious figure possessed all the great human attributes, and yet lacked sincerity, he would not have been able to attain such great victories. Today, under the shelter of that spiritual global renaissance [as heard] which has been created through the strength of the nation and the strong hand of the great leader of the revolution, the possession of religious values by individuals has been manifested as a great honor.

In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Iran's leader graciously addressed the members of the Council of Guardians: May God grant you success so that you may pursue your path with the same strength and stamina which you have hitherto displayed.

Construction Crusade Vows To Support Khamene'i
LD1006121889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the establishing the Construction Crusade, more than 2,000 crusaders from the Crusade, together with a representative of the leadership, the minister, deputy ministers, and officials in charge of the leadership's representative in provinces and cities, met this morning with the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to express their condolences for the heart-rending passing of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in order to express their allegiance to Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The Central News Unit reports that first Mr Nuri, representative of the leadership in the Construction Crusade, on behalf of all the crusaders, expressed condolences for the passing of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and added: Our system with powerful authority will continue the path of the imam and will ensure the continuity of the Islamic revolution. In the past, relations between the Construction Crusade and the leader of the revolution have been maintained. These relations and submission to the leadership will also continue.

Ayatollah Khamene'i then spoke, referring to the fact that the Construction Crusade was one of the organizations the imam of the ummah liked. He said: You should increase your efforts in order to achieve the goals and aspirations which have been defined by our beloved imam. Of course, in this path one should not forget reliance upon God. God willing, all of us will follow the path of the imam with all our might and will lead the country to complete perfection.

Theology Students Pledge Support to Khamene'i
LD1206142589 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—Thousands of Iranian and foreign students of the Qom Theological School along with their teachers voiced support for the new leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday.

They had marched 135 kms from Qom after visiting the shrine of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni at Behesht-e Zahra cemetery.

"The students have come here from Qom on foot, many of them with walking sticks, to pledge allegiance to the new leader," one of the theologians told Ayatollah Khamene'i. "We are committed to continue treading Imam Khomeyni's path till the last breath as it was outlined in his will," he said.

Khamene'i in response stressed the role of theological schools as "the main pillar of the Islamic revolution" and urged students to pay further attention to Islamic studies, piety, ethics and politics.

The foreign students who met Khamene'i were from Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iraq, Thailand, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria, Algeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Bahrain and several other countries.

KAYHAN Predicts Election of 'Strong President'
LD1106081489 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—Ayatollah Khamene'i's leadership along with the Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's future presidency may herald important steps to strengthen the Islamic revolution, a daily wrote.

"With the two men working together, major developments might be in the making to further consolidate the revolution," said the KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL editorial Sunday.

The Khamene'i-Hashemi-Rafsanjani team may also "solve local problems including the economy and the slow-pace in the post war reconstruction," it added.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is currently the speaker of the Majlis and acting Armed Forces commander in chief, is widely predicted to win in the presidential election set for August 18.

The English-language daily did not mention the speaker by name but said the August election "will usher in a strong president to run the daily affairs of the state."

On foreign policy, the paper believed the future administration would follow a policy of "peace, security, and stabilty but strictly on the basis of mutual respect, non-interference and good neighbourliness."

"No matter what hostile elements may do and say about Iran's future, the masses are adamant to build and protect their country with reason, logic, prudence, and unity... along the path the popular leader (Khamene'i) has directed us in his statement."

In his first message to the nation Thursday, Ayatollah Khamene'i called for greater efforts to turn the wheels of the economy and providing services to the people.

He also called on the nation and the Armed Forces to be on alert to thwart any plot by the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

The daily said a week after world Muslims went into mourning over the loss of Imam Khomeyni, Iranians opened a new chapter in their history and were planning to continue his path "with the same old vigilance and determination."

Larijani Affirms Hashemi-Rafsanjani for President

LD1206085889 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—Former Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani described the late imam as a "divine gift for the whole Islamic ummah."

In an article appearing in Monday's [12 June] issue of TEHRAN TIMES Larijani wrote that the late imam who passed away June 3, during his life created a legend which will influence the intellectual and political thinking in the Islamic world for many years to come.

He said the imam's demise is a great loss for the nation, the revolution and the Islamic world with no replacement.

Larijani said the swift selection of Imam Khomeyni's successor was a sign of the strength of the revolution describing Ayatollah Khamene'i as the best choice.

On the forthcoming presidential elections, he said there was no doubt that Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is the right choice for presidency. His election, he said, will be another sign of consolidation of the revolution.

"Right people in the right positions: This is a major achievement but only the beginning of a long road," he said.

On priorities of the new leadership for future of the country, Larijani said they are:

1- Consolidation and further deepening of the prestigious position which Iran enjoys within and across the Islamic world.

2- Building on effective and reliable defense, based on philosophy of deterrence and popular participation.

3- A general mobilization of the nation for comprehensive and all pervasive programs for total restructuring of the economy, social well-being and education.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Reelected Majlis Speaker

LD1206092289 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was re-elected as the speaker of the 270-seat Majlis for another one-year term Monday. The speaker is elected by secret ballots annually at the end of one year-term.

Out of the 241 deputies present 230 voted in favour of the speaker who is to run in the presidential elections scheduled for August one voted against and ten abstained.

Speaking in the session, Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was reinstated in his post of acting Armed Forces commander by the new leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, said the people's massive presence in the late imam's funeral and commemorative ceremonies solved many issues. "It disappointed the enemies and inspired the friends," he said.

The speaker called on the Majlis and all other bodies to tread the imam's path and work for materialization of his aspirations. "Like the past the Majlis must follow the leadership and while serving the people carry out principles of Islam," he added.

He also thanked the Assembly of Experts for its swift selection of the new leader after the demise of the imam on June 3. "The people welcomed this right choice and the enemies found their empty dreams shatterd," said the speaker.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi and Hoseyn Hashemian were re-elected vice-speakers with 211 and 128 votes respectively.

Daily Says Leadership Issue Solved 'Forever'

LD1306065189 Tehran IRNA in English 0633 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 13, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Tuesday commented on the issue of leadership which it said has become a topic of discussion after Ayatollah Husayn 'Ali Montazeri's resignation.

It said for some political and religious observers inside the country who have become used to Imam Khomeyni's leadership for the past 26 years, settlement of this issue was critical.

For political observers outside who analyzed the issue solely from material and political viewpoint many points of ambiguity existed.

Foreign media and Western political circles, especially the opponents of the Islamic revolution, were of the view that after the imam, the leadership issue cannot be solved peacefully and quietly.

During the recent illness of the imam, these propaganda reached and climax and they were counting the days until the passing away of the imam, said the daily.

Meanwhile the terrorist monafeqin (MKO) [Mojahedin-e Khalq] once again were nurturing the promise of conquering Tehran and had placed their imaginary forces inside the country under alert.

As a result of all-out propaganda during the 11-days of the imam's illness, the simpleminded believed that after the imam, the foundations of the Republic would be shaken.

Bani Sadr, the fugitive former president of Iran immediately after the demise of the imam in an interview with the BBC predicted an unstable future for Iran. Similar statements were uttered by the heads of other mercenary mini-groups, each predicting the downfall of the republic.

However Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's selection as leader abruptly put an end to all these so called analyses and predictions, proving that the foundation of the Republic is as strong as it can be, it added.

This development was a proof to the imam's statement that the Republic is not based on a particular person and that the nation has found its right path. "This is an undeniable reality," it said.

Nevertheless, the issue of leadership in the Islamic system is not such a complicated or insoluble issue. As the imam had said, it was not necessary that the leader should have the qualifications of "marja" (the authority followed in religious matters).

"The issue of leadership in an Islamic system has forever been solved and there are no ambiguities any more."

VOA, BBC Reporting on Khomeyni Criticized

LD1106204889 Tehran IRNA in English 2035 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—They are again at it, indulging in tricks in a desparate bid to distract world attention from what is believed to be history's greatest ever assembly of human-beings.

A leopard cannot change its spots, and true to the saying, the Voice of America [VOA] and BBC were caught red-handed, airing distorted accounts of today's massive gathering of bereaved mourners at the resting place of their beloved leader.

Sunday was the 7th day of demise of Imam Khomeyni, commemorated throughout Iran and abroad, and according to estimates today's gathering at Behesht-e Zahra was identical to the one on the burial day, when over 10 millions laid their leader to rest.

People gathered in the capital from different parts of the country to mourn the "spirit of God", and since the early hours today, all roads and highways led towards the densely-packed vast cemetery on the city's southern outskirts.

The several million mourners stretched for kilometers, and many who did not manage to get to the shrine had to return home half way through.

Iran, especially the shrine of the great Ruhollah was the cynosure of the world's eager eyes, yet those trumpets of arrogance tried another clumsy attempt to mislead world opinion.

But by ignoring the splendid and unprecedented spectacle, VOA and BBC only exposed their true colours to the awakened world.

With their reputation going down day by day, they crudely tried to misportray the millions of mourners, as "hundreds of thousands," and even unabashedly claimed IRNA as their source.

Amateurish indeed. Especially when a look at IRNA's first news despatch on the commemoration ceremony Sunday morning reveals that:

"Millions of mourners are expected to attend the ceremony. By 0730 GMT, hundreds of thousands of people have gathered there and thronged at the northwestern aisle of the cemetery where Imam Khomeyni's shrine is located."

Out of 23 reports despatched Sunday by IRNA on the magnificent unforgettable ceremony, both BBC and VOA have tried to play with words by taking fragmented parts here and there from the first report. It is common knowledge how the Western news trusts misquote reports in a bid to distract world public opinion.

It is obvious that the grand emotion-filled participation of millions of Iranians in today's ceremony and their vow of allegiance to the Islamic revolution and its lofty ideals, disproved the unfounded analysis of the biased Western mass media, forcing them to resort to such deceit.

In sharp contrast to BBC and VOA, other Western mass media have at least tried to reflect to the world parts of today's historic congregation at the shrine of the leader of the Islamic revolution.

For instance, the Swiss radio in its English news Sunday evening quoted IRNA as reporting the participation of millions of Iranians in the mourning ceremony for their late leader who passed away last week.

With regards to the deep enmity of certain Western mass media with Islam and the Islamic revolution, they are expected to maliciously reflect the incidents of the Islamic Republic in coming days.

UK Foreign Office Spokesman Cited on Ties

LD0906153389 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] London, June 9, IRNA—The British Government is ready to have normal relations with Iran but says it does not accept that it is up to Britain to resolve the dispute that led Tehran to sever relations in March.

A Foreign Office spokesman maintained Friday [9 June] that Britain does not have the opportunities as suggested by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to redress the situation either on "The Satanic Verses" or about Iranian hostages in Lebanon.

He said it had already been made clear that there was "no question" of banning the book that is considered blasphemous by Muslims worldwide and that it was "not true" that Britain did not care about the fates of hostages in Lebanon.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at a press conference in Tehran on Thursday, spelt out that the ball was firmly in the hands of the British Government if it wanted to act to resolve the mutual differences.

He said the West was hostile towards the Islamic revolution and must act as the Soviet Union had, if it wanted ties to improve.

The Foreign Office spokesman maintained the government did care about the four Iranians that have been missing in Lebanon for seven years but there was "nothing more" the UK or archbishop of Canterbury could do as it was believed they had been "dead for some considerable time."

This information had been conveyed to Iran by a number of channels and on a number of occasions and it was a "complete mystery" why the subject should be raised again, he said.

The position was that it was up to Iran to use any influence it has in Lebanon to free the three British hostages as a "humanitarian act" and it was "cynical" of the Majlis speaker to try to connect the issue with the fate of the Iranians.

As for "The Satanic Verses," the spokesman argued that it was "not possible" for the government to ban the book as there was "no legal basis."

Some human rights groups have argued that Britain has no basis to publish the book on the government's claim that it represents "free expression" as no such principle is enshrined in British law.

FRG Ambassador Reportedly To Return to Tehran

LD1306095989 Hamburg DPA in German 0929 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—After a 4-month break, the FRG will be represented with an ambassador in Tehran again. According to the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday, Ambassador Armin Freitag will return to his post on Wednesday. He has withdrawn, as were other EC countries' ambassadors, in connection with the Iranian murder threats against the writer Salman Rushdie.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the ambassador's return is taking place after consultation with the French Government, which is also sending its ambassador back. The reason given is the fact that a new situation has arisen in Iran since the death of Ayatollah Khomeyni, the situation which must be carefully monitored.

Khamene'i Meets With Najafabad People, Basij

LD0906173689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] A large number of Basijis [mobilization forces] and different groups of people from Najafabad [birthplace and power base of Ayatollah Montazeri] and a number of Arab tribesmen of Khuzestan, this afternoon met with Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this meeting Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said: At the time of the passing of the holy prophet the city of al-Madinah went into mourning; but when we look at the feelings and excitement of the great Iranian nation at the time of the passing of our illustrious imam, once again we believe in this truth that our people in their sincerity and the depth of belief and strength of feeling are even ahead of the time of the holy prophet of Islam and the early days of Islam; and this has been seen in many

manifestations of people's self-sacrifice, and the imam in one of his speeches stressed that the depth of this feeling at the level of general public is greater than the early days of Islam.

Ayatollah Khamene'i added: In the course of the past 10 years the Iranian people has achieved an exceptional quality and this has been proved in the course of 8 years of war, economic embargo, and steadfastness in the face of diverse conspiracies of the enemy. This grandeur and glory has been bestowed upon us by that lofty and exceptional character who mobilized us on this path, made us pass all the obstacles and reach at this confident point that we are now.

Today our people will also continue that path with the same strength. They have demonstrated this in the past few days.

In another part of his speech the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: Today more than anything we need awareness, vigilance and unity of expression. We should act wisely and vigilantly toward an enemy which acts in complex manners. The enemy will enter the field through propaganda, spreading of rumors and the revival of various motivations. We should construct the country and should provide the possibilities for a comfortable life for all the individuals in the society, especially the poor classes of society, and in this endeavor the guidelines of the imam are at our disposal.

Receives USSR, Afghan Officials

LD1006140889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI), this morning separately received the vice president of Ethiopia, the religious leader of the Transcaucasian Muslims and member of the Soviet Parliament, the leaders of the Afghan Muslim mujahidin's eight-party coalition living in Iran, the special envoy of the Ghanian president, and the foreign minister of Sri Lanka. According to a report of the Central News Unit, using their meeting with the leader of the IRI, the leader of the Afghan Muslim Mujahidin's eight-party coalition offered condolences on the death of His Holiness, Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, pledged religious allegiance to Ayatollah Khamene'i, the IRI leader, and declared their continued obedience to the instructions and advice of the IRI leader, as the Vali-ye Amr of the Muslims. [passage omitted]

The religious leader of the Transcaucasian Muslims and member of the Soviet parliament, in his meeting with the leader of the IRI, conveyed the condolences of the Soviet leader Mr Gorbachev and members of that country's parliament, and said that all Muslims of the USSR are mourning this great tragedy. He also expressed the delight of his country's muslims in the fact that a person such as Ayatollah Khamene'i has become the leader of the IRI in order to continue along the path of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni.

On the basis of this report, in continuation of these meetings, a spsokesman for the Afghan Muslim Muhajedin's eight-party coalition said: The death of Imam Khomeyni is a grief to every Muslim, however it is more heart-rending for the oppressed and blood-soaked nation of Afghanistan which began its movement by receiving inspiration from the instructions of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni. It was always a heartfelt desire to the Muslim Afghans that in addition to sharing their bereavements and soorows, his holiness the imam would live to share the delight of the Islamic revolution of the Afghan nation, too. But divine will did not give him this opportunity; and we, as followers of Imam Khomeyni's path, by relying on Almighty God, shall carry out our duty. [passage omitted]

Meets With Foreign Envoys

LD1106063589 Tehran IRNA in English 0627 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—Ethiopia's deputy president, chief Muslim leader in the USSR's Upper Caucasia, leaders of Afghan mujahidin based in Iran were among foreign guests who separately met Ayatollah Khamene'i on Saturday and congratulated his new post as leader.

Also meeting with Khamene'i were the special envoy of the Ghanaian president and the Sri Lankan foreign minister.

During the meetings, Ayatollah Khamene'i expressed thanks for the messages of condolence on the passing away of Imam Khomeyni sent by heads of state, governments and Muslims in each country.

Majlis Speaker Receives Soviet Religious Leader

LD1006113989 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA—Chief religious leader of the Upper Caucasia of the Soviet Union Allah Shokur Pashazadeh [name as received] expressed condolences to Majlis speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the occasion of Imam Khomeyni's passing away.

Pashazadeh, currently here to pay respect to Imam Khomeyni, also congratulated President 'Ali Khamene'i's election as leader of the Islamic Republic. He said they were looking forward to the speaker's visit to the Soviet Union.

He also briefed Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the situation of Muslims in the Soviet Union, number of mosques and the recent reforms made by Mikhail Gorbachev in the Soviet society.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani expessed hope to meet Muslims during his visit to the Soviet Union.

The Majlis speaker also sent greetings to the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Majlis Speaker Comments on West's Attitude

AU0906130489 Hamburg BILD in German 9 Jun 89 p 8

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 8 June: "We Are Poorer Now But Happier"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Hashemi-Rafsanjani smiles. He is number two in Iran. Khamene'i continues to be the thinker. The two support each other. However, there were rumors about a quarrel. Hashemi-Rafsanjani: "There is nothing behind these rumors. It is like judging Mars, people do not know anything."

He smiles. He hates the West's attitude: "Well, it was a mistake. We need neither the West nor the East. We want to be independent. The next decade will be dedicated to reconstruction. The millions of mourners really support the revolution."

BILD: "What do you expect from the FRG for your country's future?"

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: "We expect all nations—the FRG as well—to reconsider their attitude toward Iran. Nothing else."

BILD: "Will there be more executions in Iran?"

Hasheni-Rafsanjani: "This is a typical question that people from the West, particularly the Germans, ask. These people are traitors, they have killed and carried out attacks. They will be brought to trial—and some of them will be executed. You Germans did the same thing during the war, which was ten times worse than what we are doing now. We do not forgive traitors."

He does not withdraw the death sentence from author Rushdie: "Khomeyni had to pass the death sentence." [passage omitted]

Musavi Holds Meeting With Iraqi Kurdish Leaders

LD1106125189 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—The visiting leaders of the Iraqi Kurdish Muslims in a meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Sunday morning described Imam Khomeyni's demise as a great loss for the Islamic community.

The delegation led by head of the Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan 'Allamah Shaykh Usman 'Abd-al-'Aziz is here to pay respects to Imam Khomeyni. Members of Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party, Islamic Party of Kurdistan and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan are among the delegation.

'Abd-al-'Aziz praised the personality of the late imam and expressed deep sorrow of the Iraqi Kurdish Muslims. He also pledged support of the Iraqi Kurdish parties to President and Leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Prime Minister Musavi thanked the sympathy of the Iraqi Kurdish Muslims and said fortunately President Khamene'i is highly concerned with problems and hardship of Iraqi Kurdistan and problems of the Muslims and the oppressed.

Musavi said "We assure the world oppressed that under the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i we will vigorously follow the line of the imam in support of the oppressed and we are sure that the Almighty Allah will help us in this task."

Soviet Call for Iraqi Withdrawal Praised

LD0906153889 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 9, IRNA—Iran today lauded the Soviet Union for its recent call for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to international borders.

"We consider the Soviet stance as a positive step towards the implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598," a senior official at the Foreign Ministry told IRNA Friday.

Gennady Gerasimov, spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry recently told a press conference that his country wanted Iraqi forces to withdraw from Iranian territory to orders specified by the 1975 accord.

The accord was signed between the two countries in the Algerian capital but was illegally declared null and void by Iraq shortly before its invasion of Iran in September 1980.

Iran has insisted that the accord is valid and that the peace talk could not move forward until the Iraqi pull out.

Demonstrators 'Attack' Turkish Embassy in Tehran

TA0806144389 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1400 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] A group of people attacked the Turkish Embassy in Tehran today at noon. The aggressors entered the garden of the embassy destroying certain vehicles belonging to embassy staff members. No one was injured during the incident. A group of Turkish journalists were

at the embassy building for talks with Turkish Ambassador Omer Akbel at the time of the incident. Savas Ay, a Turkish journalist, reported the incident to Turkish Radio and Television as follows:

The Turkish Embassy building in Tehran was attacked today at noon by a group of 300 to 400 demonstrators, who reportedly belong to the Hezbollah organization, who arrived at the embassy gate carrying stones and iron clubs in their hands. First they broke the windows of the guard post at the gate, and then succeeded in entering the garden of the embassy where they completely destroyed some 12 vehicles parked there. Their efforts to burn the cars were foiled. Following the demonstration, which lasted 75 minutes, Revolutionary Guards and policemen intervened in the incident. However, their dispersion [words indistinct].

The personnel at the embassy were very calm during the incident. The fact that no one was hurt during the incident is being viewed here as very lucky. At this moment, the Iranian security forces are carrying out work to determine the damage to the embassy garden.

(Majid Bizmark), the Iranian charge d'affaires in Ankara, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry following the incident. He was told of Turkey's concern about and reaction to the incident. Turkey has requested that the necessary measures be taken by Iran for the protection of the lives and properties of Turkish representatives and personnel, as well as Turkish citizens there, and prevention of the recurrence of similar incidents. The charge d'affaires was told that Turkey maintains the right to request an indemnity for the cars destroyed in the embassy garden.

Government Expresses 'Great Regret'

TA0806152089 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1500 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Following the attack on the Turkish Embassy, the Tehran police commander in chief visited the embassy and expressed the Iranian Government's great regret over the incident. He added that the culprits have been captured and will be punished appropriately. He pointed out that all necessary measures have been taken to safeguard the security of all Turkish representations and personnel.

Interference in Turkish Affairs Denied

TA0806152889 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1450 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran (A.A)—Iran's Assembly speaker, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, today said that Iran had never interfered in the internal affairs of any other country, including those of its neighbours.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also asked to be shown any documentary evidence of Iranian interference in Turkey and if such a document existed.

A Turkish journalist today told Hashemi-Rafsanjani at his first news conference since the death of religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni that the Turkish Government was concerned with the support Iran gave to Islamic movements in Turkey, and asked whether any change could be expected in this attitude following Khomeyni's death.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani in response denied that Iran followed any policy of interference in the internal affairs of other countries, its neighbours in particular.

"If by protection extended to Islamic movements you mean the protection of Moslems and Islam, that is another matter," he added, however.

"We protect Islam. We are convinced that the statements in the (Turkish) press and by the (Turkish) Government stem from difficulties encountered in connection with Moslems and a wish to humiliate the movement in the country (Turkey) by declaring that it has outside support. The accusations aimed at our ambassador in Ankara are also unjustified," he declared. Answering another question as to why Iran had shown no reaction to Bulgaria's expulsion of Turks from Bulgaria in huge numbers, Rafsanjani said Iran had discussed the issue with the Bulgarian Government.

"The Bulgarians claim they are observing the rights of the Moslem population in that country. We are following the situation closely, but we are confident that Bulgaria will act according to what it says."

Pakistan

Bhutto Addresses News Conference on U.S. Visit

BK1206164589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has reiterated her government's resolve to take every possible step to ensure peace and stability in the region. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon after her return last night from her official visit to the United States, she referred to the beginning of the process of reconciliation, understanding, and dialogue between various powers and said Pakistan desires to take part in this process to strengthen the forces of peace. In this context, she referred to the steps taken by her government to improve relations with all neighboring countries, including India. She said this policy is in the best interest of the nation, but certain people are not happy with it.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister reaffirmed the present government's policy for a political solution to the problem and said Pakistan does not want the current war to continue. For peace in Afghanistan, it is essential that the present regime of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in Kabul relinquish power to pave the way for the establishment of a nonaligned administration which could hold free and fair elections in that country,

the prime minister emphasized. She said independence and sovereignty are the cornerstones of Pakistan's Afghan policy and Pakistan wants the Afghan people to make every decision themselves.

Answering a question, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who was also present at the news conference, said that during her talks with the UN secretary general the prime minister exchanged views on the establishment a nonaligned government in place of the present Kabul regime in Afghanistan. The prime minister told the UN secretary general that the mujahidin can hold negotiations only with a nonaligned government in Kabul, he added.

Responding to a question, the prime minister said that Kabul regime forces possess a large quantity of arms and ammunition which were left behind by Soviet troops while they were withdrawing from Afghanistan. Apart from this, the Kabul regime has also received additional weapons during the past 3 months. Under this situation, the deviation from the principle of supplying weapons on the basis of a symmetry between the two sides, will harm the mujahidin. Bhutto said: This is the view of the interim Afghan government with which she had a discussion before her departure for the United States. During the past 3 months, the Kabul regime has fired 330 Scud missiles from the Afghanistan side, she added. [sentence as heard]

Benazir Bhutto said both the United States and Pakistan have complete identity of views on their future Afghan policy in accordance with the analysis of the situation there. The U.S. leadership has assured Pakistan of its assistance for the realization of these objectives. The prime minister said: We also exchanged views on the political and security situation in the period after the settlement of the Afghan problem.

Addressing Pakistan's security, the prime minister said that President Bush has promised continued U.S.aid for security and economic development. The two sides agreed that their mutually beneficial relations will continue to be of basic importance for stability in the region.

The prime minister said that the United States understands Pakistan's security concerns and its legitimate defense requirements. Pakistan was assured that the U.S. administration has seriously examined Pakistan's request for the F-16's and that it will take the necessary steps to inform Congress about this. Pakistan has been assured by both the U.S. administration and the U.S. Congress that they will support the aid package, while the relevant U.S. congressional committee has recommended that aid to Pakistan should be continued as usual despite budgetary difficulties.

Answering a question on the nuclear issue, Benazir Bhutto said that she reiterated Pakistan's clear-cut position on the nondiscriminatory regional strategy and emphasized the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear program.

On the proposal for an association of democratic nations, which she presented during her address at Harvard, the prime minister said that this is a new proposal for strengthening democracies now emerging in the Third World. Pakistan will have to study and hold discussions with other nations on this proposal. Ms Bhutto had discussed this proposal with President Bush over the telephone and had promised to further explain it to him later.

Discusses France, USSR, Indian Missile

BK1206171289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has reiterated her government's desire to take every possible step to bring peace and stability in the region. She was addressing a news conference in Islamabad today after her return from an official visit to the United States yesterday. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

The prime minister said it would not be proper for her to discuss the question of [nuclear] reprocessing plant during her coming visit to France, which would be purely in connection with bicentennial celebrations of that country. Some decisions could possibly be taken on the question when President Mitterrand of France visits Pakistan later this year, or at the beginning of next year.

The prime minister said Pakistan wanted good relations with the Soviet Union and hoped that this would be possible after settlement of the Afghan problem.

Replying to a question about the Indian medium-range missile, Agni, she said it is not only of concern to Pakistan but all other countries within a range of 2,400 km.

Asked about formation of the combined opposition [in the National Assembly], the prime minister said it would have no bearing on the Pakistan People's Party government in the North-West Frontier Province. She, however, wondered at Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad's [Islamic Democratic Alliance] alliance with Mr Abdul Wali Khan, whom it had strongly criticized some time ago for writing letters to foreign heads of state on Afghanistan. She hoped Mr Abdul Wali Khan will review his decision after her talks with him.

'Positive Response' From France on Nuclear Plant

BK1206135789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] The Senate chairman, Mr Wasim Sajjad, has returned home now after a week-long visit to France at the head of the senators' delegation. He told newsmen in Islamabad that the people and government of France were anxiously waiting for the forthcoming visit of the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, to France, which would go a long way to further strengthen the existing

relations between the two countries. The Senate chairman said there was a wide scope of further consolidation of ties between the two countries at all levels.

He said during their talks, the delegation also apprised the French leadership of Pakistan's dire need of nuclear energy resources to overcome its acute power shortage. He said the delegation received a positive response for the supply of nuclear reprocessing plant to Pakistan.

Thermal Power Plant Being Built With Soviet Aid
BK1206141989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] The National Assembly continues debate on the new federal budget. In the morning session, nine members expressed their views on the budget.

The minister of state for planning and development, Mr Ehsanul Haq Piracha, told the house during question hour that Multan Thermal Power Station is being set up with a Soviet credit of $277 million. If the plant machineries reach soon, the first unit would be ready for operations by December next year.

The minister for parliamentary affairs, Khwaja Tariq Ahmad Rahim, told the house that after a high-level official inquiry into the causes leading to the spillage of heavy water at Karachi Nuclear Power Plant in April last, steps are being taken to improve the safety of the plant and to ensure that such incidents do not occur again. The house will again meet at 1700 this afternoon.

Bhutto Sends Greetings to Ryzhkov on Appointment
BK1106085289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] The prime minister has felicitated Nikolay Ryzhkov on being elected as the chairman of the Council of Ministers of USSR. In her message, Ms Benazir Bhutto said that she is confident that under his leadership, the Government of USSR will rapidly progress toward achieving its great objectives. She reaffirmed her government's desire to further develop the relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union, which will be beneficial to the peoples of both countries and will promote peace and progress in the region.

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